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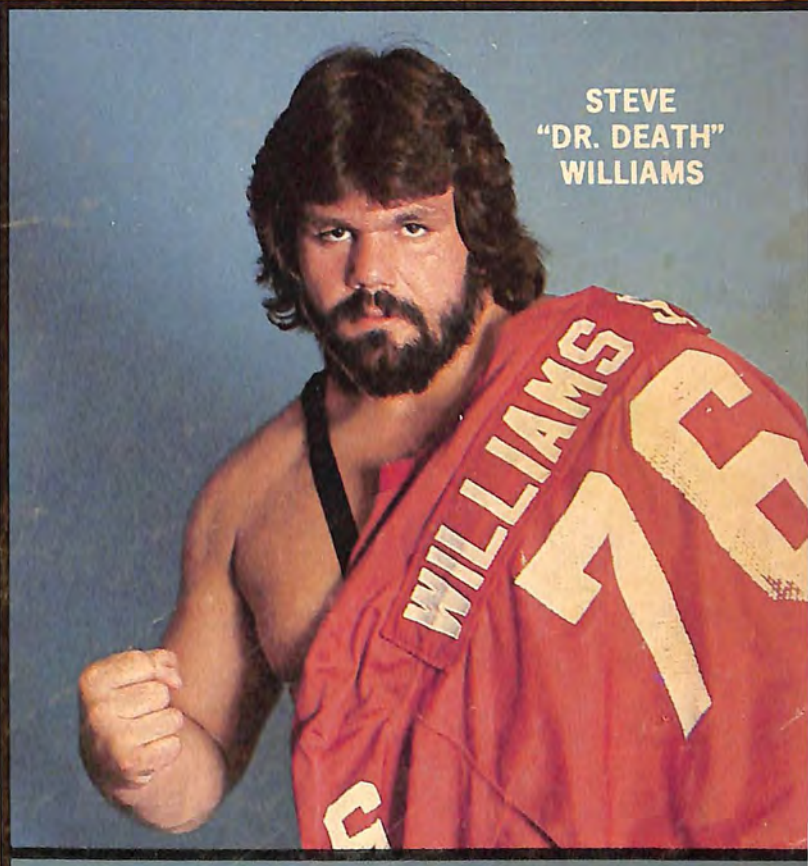

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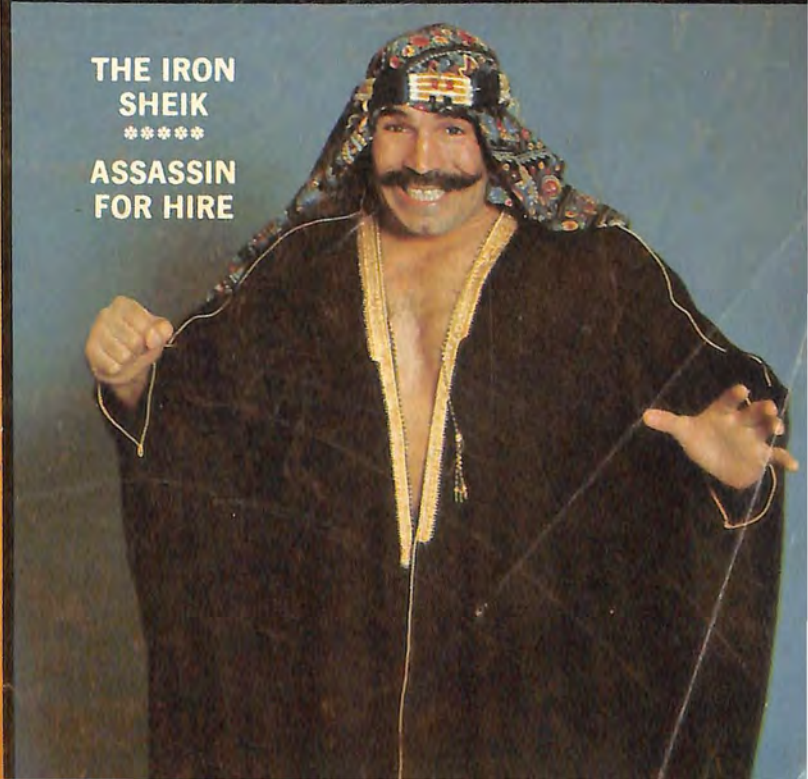

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Wrestling REVUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

As I See It	by Cowboy Bill Watts	5
On And Around The Mat World	by James C. Melby	8
Gagne & Brunzell Top Santana & Martel	by James C. Melby	13
The Wrestling News® - What Is It?		15
The Iron Sheik - Brutality For Hire	by Jim Cornette	18
Salvatore Bellomo Thrilling W.W.F. Fans	by Ed Loughman	22
Imitation — Or Deception	by Sam Menacker	24
Has Don Carson Really Turned The Stomper Loose?	by James C. Melby	26
Wendi Richter - Texas Cowgirl	by Kate Mast	28
Introducing Doctor Death - Steve Williams	by James C. Melby	32
The Last Bout of Chief Peter Maivia	by Kathy Dowd	34
Spotlight On Peoria's Wrestling	by Bruce Viner	36
Bob Backlund's Battle With Bob Orton	by Ron & Joe Cunliffe	40
Funk & Von Erich Call It Quits	by Howard M. Baum	43
Jim Breaks - Collector Of Wrestling Titles	by Evan R. Treharne	46
Hacksaw Reed Came Close To Taking N.W.A. Title	by Larry Cranston	54
The Wrestling News Pin-Up Special - Otto Wanz		56
The Crippler's Successful Career	by Kathy Dowd	58
Farewell To A Friend	by Ken Jugan	61
The British Wrestling Report	by Stuart H. Barker	62
Oddjob Harold Sakata Has Passed Away	by James C. Melby	63
The Wrestling News® Swap 'N Sell	by Norman H. Kietzer	64

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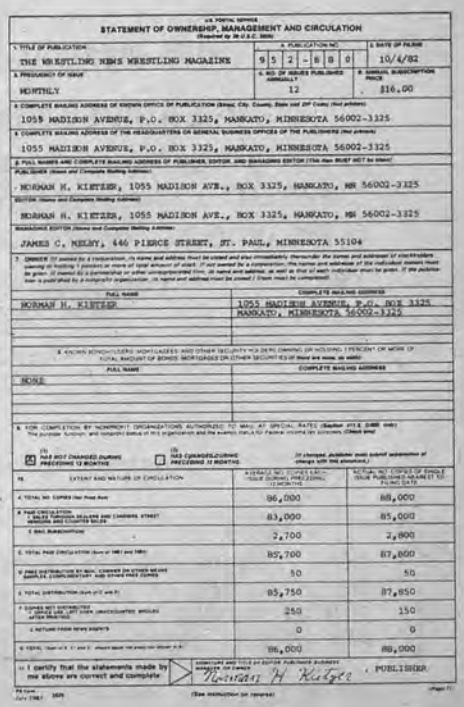

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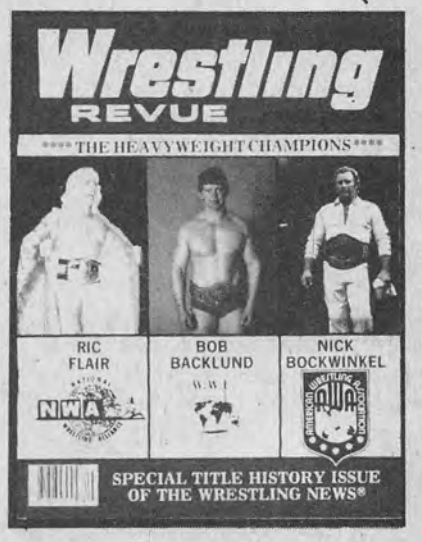

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As I See It

Guest Editorial By Cowboy Bill Watts

In a few short years many things can happen that can change the course of a person's life. God works in mysterious ways. In 1959 I was playing football at Oklahoma University under the tuteledge of Bud Wilkenson. He was the most successful active coach in the college ranks — a man ahead of his times. His **small, quick,** well-organized teams were dominating his schedule. But something was happening with Mother Nature. The athletes were starting to grow — **big**. There were changes in attitudes — athletes in all sports were starting to be individuals rather than totally team orientated. It was the end of an era and those that didn't adjust would fall behind or drop out. Wahoo McDaniel ran from Norman, Oklahoma to Chickasha, Oklahoma on a bet. It started a national craze of college kids thinking up crazy stunts for publicity. At that time it was my junior year in college and I was the largest line man on OU's football team at 229 lbs., starved down from 245 for quickness sake. Danny Hodge, the world's greatest athlete had finished at OU in 1957 and left a legacy never to be equaled in amateur wresting and was now being totally exploited by some unscrupulous boxing promoters. I was in a near fatal car-train wreck in Oklahoma City. After being unconscious off and on for two weeks, I came out of the hospital below 200 pounds with medical doubts as to my ever participating in a sport again. Life for me was certainly at a low ebb. Sports, the only thing I had applied myself to, was apparently over. I wasn't a Christian then — totally opposite, but looking back now I can see Matt 19:26: "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." It was God's will that I would even survive that wreck and rehabilitate bigger and stronger than I had been. (His call on me personally came much later — and most people that have known me certainly wouldn't realize these steps I was taking were directed by Him — I sure didn't).

Cowboy Bill Watts, our guest editorialist this month, poses with Norman H. Kietzer, the Editor-In-Chief of this magazine.

"Weight training" — another taboo for any athlete of that era — it "ties you up" and makes you "muscle bound." That turned out to be as much ignorant dogma as dieting a 245 lb. growing kid down to 229 to play football. (Now all sports lift weights for strength and injury rehabilitation and attempt to have football players get bigger.) After getting back to my normal 245 lb. body weight I stumbled onto weight training. Seven months later I weighed a solid, massive, powerful 315 lbs. (I eventually bench pressed 585 lbs. back in 1968. The only other person to do that weight back then was Bruno Sammartino, the World's Strongest Man, who also became a great pro wrestler.) I wasn't exactly a Clark Kent before weights but I darn sure became Superman in seven months. But at OU then — there were no places in that football program for 315 lb. linemen. So another lifestyle change — I went pro in football where size and strength were already appreciated —

but by present day standards the wages for the men in the trenches were just a hair's breath above slavery — and the coach could be a complete idiot and still be your master.

Fortunately for me Wahoo McDaniel, Danny Hodge and Dale Lewis (a two time NCAA wrestling champion at OU) were wrestling professionally. A sport that I, an indoctrinated skeptic, scoffed at. But I had all the tools for the trade: size, strength, quickness, an extroverted personality and a fearless mouth that I could back-up. When Wahoo showed me the money to be made it was Christmas. I won't bore you with how hard it was for me to get started and to begin making the big bucks because contrary to a lot of people's thinking there is no "magic wand" that reaches out and touches you and "presto" you become a superstar in pro wrestling. In order to attain the top you not only have to be a great athlete, but you have to be exciting, controversial and crowd pleasing, unique, a personality, have charisma; be adept at "bally-hooing" your own style, situation and matches via the electronic media of T.V., or to sum it all up — a great athletic showman.

In professional sports wrestling is the forerunner of things to come. Gorgeous George is probably the most famous name world-wide. However, he wasn't "hatched out" a bleached blond, with a valet and tossing bobby pins to the crowd. He was a tough wrestler named George Wagner who had been pro for ten years and then saw that he needed something unique and different to catch the people's attention. But if he hadn't been a great athlete to begin with after he caught the people's attention — he would have been a short-lived flop. If the bleached blond hair had won the acclaim, then hundreds of wrestlers that have bleached their hair since would also have the acclaim. Wahoo McDaniel became "Chief" Wahoo McDaniel with the headdress and the worst Indian dance I've ever seen — but he was and is a great athlete. Virgil Runnels became Dusty Rhodes "The American Dream," 6'6" 400 lb. Robert Marella became "Gorilla Monsoon," Richard Afflis of the Greenbay Packers became "Dick the Bruiser," Jack Adkisson of SMU football fame became "The Iron Claw Fritz von Erick," Sylvester Ritter became "The Junk Yard Dog" the current fastest climbing box office attraction today, and Bill Watts from Oklahoma started as "Big" Bill Watts, was "Bruiser" Bill Watts in Texas and finally because of all the national publicity in New York became "Cowboy" Bill Watts. "Voila," a business where your innermost **true** personality can surface, develop and make you a world-wide celebrity.

Men like Danny Hodge, Verne Gagne, Lou Thesz, Ed Strangler Lewis, LeRoy McGuirk, Jack Brisco, and Ernie Ladd may not have added any showmanship to their names, but they all being great athletes developed their own unique crowd-pleasing styles that made them big box office attractions.

In basketball we now have the "slam-dunk" and Dr. J. It all started with Wilt "the Stilt" Chamberlain. In football Lenny Moore of the Colts was the first to establish instant recognition by wearing shoes completely covered with white tape up to his ankles. Now we have the touchdown dance — "spiking the ball" — all gimmicks on showmanship developed by great athletes to develop uniqueness and personal recognition.

The American Dream in boxing changed drastically too; From solid, predictable, skillful, dependable Joe Louis to a brash, outspoken "show boating" youngster that was to excite boxing as Gorgeous George had wrestling. Cassius Clay watched Gorgeous George and Dick the Bruiser and their "showmanship" to draw huge crowds. He became Mohammed Ali the greatest boxer and showman of all times. He revived a sport that had become depressed at the box office and took it to new heights with more world-wide name recognition than anyone. He took other boxers with very limited skills and ballyhooed the match to a financial bonanza — then because he was so much superior as a boxer he could do his crowd pleasing, or to a sports writer, controversial tactics, and still beat them. To prove once again — its only crowded at the bottom of the ladder, that truly great athletes can "show off" and still beat you. They found out that because of television's world coverage of up-to-the-minute events, no one cared about the ordinary. They wanted excitement and action.

In wrestling if you skillfully dominated your opponent and tied him up on the mat the fans would boo you out of the arena. They were spending their money to be entertained — not to get a boring lesson in classic wrestling. They want action, excitement, color, blood!

America is not unique — the whole world loves excitement, color, action — The average spectator doesn't go to a car race to watch the cars go around in circles. Whether they admit it or not, it is the chance of danger that creates the excitement. Pro basketball has a 30 second clock to increase scoring for crowd-pleasing excitement. Pro football has changed the defensive and offensive rules to promote offense, scoring, long passes, excitement. Baseball has livelier balls, shorter fences and different bats to promote scoring. Pro wrestling just saw the change earlier and adapted sooner and that is why it is the number one year-round spectator sport the world over.

So 1962 and soon to be superstar Bill Watts debuts in pro wrestling in Portsmouth, Ohio — not too exciting and I doubt if anyone there remembers. I was still so naive that I thought hamburgers and well-done steaks were gourmet dining — cold beer was champagne — what was Dom Perignon anyway? And the only way to impress my peers was to run my big mouth and then do or die to try and back it up.

So the mystery of the "blood capsules." I mean, "I can read," and I had read, and still occasionally read; some sportswriter (very few of whom are very highly thought of by the athletes they write about in any sport) or sportscaster that will actually go on record that he has seen "a blood capsule" that is used in pro wrestling to "fake" bleeding. As I said earlier I was indoctrinated — (But back then I would have believed that the Arab nations OPEC was responsible for higher priced oil and resulting gasoline shortages and thus higher prices at the pump. — Certainly not the giant American oil companies cartel that actually own all of the Arab oil.) So I just thought that it was a big secret — that

no one would tell me because I was a rookie. I never stopped to think — where would a wrestler carry it so it wouldn't break before he "wanted" it. What was this mysterious substance that once rubbed on the face or head would continue to drip all over the mat and dressing room floor after the bout. I even asked some of the injured wrestlers where was the "blood capsule" — I guess they just considered the source, or thought I was making a really "hip" joke. In 1963 in Pittsburgh with a giant named Gorilla Monsoon (Robert Morella) who split me open over the right eye — that required seven stitches outside and four inside to close the severed artery — one of the pros who had resented my making light of his injuries said "well dummy, I see you finally found a blood capsule." The doctor stitching me (without benefit of deadening) was also upset. I asked him why he was so angry — after all I was the one who was hurt by Monsoon hitting me with a 20 lb. ring bell — I am the one who's angry. The doctor said that while he was helping me from the ring (this doctor was a friend of the promoter and always attended the bouts and treated the injured in Pittsburgh) that a policeman was dipping his finger in the pools of my blood my severed artery was spurting and telling the people in a loud know-it-all voice of experience and authority "don't worry, it's only catsup."

During my years as a pro, lots of things have changed, my scarless face has become a rather prominent area of scar tissue. I have to get my shoulders situated "just so" in order to sleep at night — my right knee is gone — I've had five friends fatally injured in this sport. I've also enjoyed the acclaim and notoriety of being a superstar in a very controversial business that has the devotion of some and audience participation of millions of fans. I've wrestled against and associated with the roughest, toughest, greatest athletes in the world. Men that no matter what accolades and awards they won in college — they have to earn their position each night in this sport. They don't start out making a big bonus for signing and then a huge salary sitting on the bench if they can't "make it." In this sport, no go — no dough!

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On and Around the MAT WORLD

Area Closeups Reports Compiled By James C. Melby

Welcome to Area Close-Ups for Issue No. 89 of The Wrestling News. As I tell you at the beginning of each trip "On And Around The Mat World" the attempt at this column is to cover the entire world of major league wrestling. I determine the coverage based on what information from the many reports that I receive I feel is most news worthy. As we have stated in the past, we repeat this each issue so new readers are aware of our own personal policies and prejudices in writing this column. While I do not recognize any one claiment to the heavyweight championship of the world as being the genuine kingpin of our sport, I do consider the heavyweight titles as recognized by the A.W.A., the W.W.F., and the N.W.A. as being the most valid titles in our sport and as being a step above all other regional titles. With that in mind let us start our trip.

THE AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

As we have reported in past issues, there is a basic core of A.W.A. offices that seem to share the majority of the wrestlers competing under the A.W.A. banner at any given point. Most of these offices hold cards once or twice each month in their respective cities, utilizing the best in A.W.A. wrestling talent to present super spectaculars. What I consider to be the core A.W.A. booking offices with the names of the promoters, who head each one, is listed here: Milwaukee (Dennis Hilgart), Winnipeg (Don Brinton), Omaha (Joe Dusek), Fargo-Moorhead (Dwaine Hoberg), Salt Lake City (John Olsen), San Francisco-Oakland (Leo Nomellini), Denver (Gene Reed), Chicago (Bob Luce), Minneapolis-St. Paul (Wally Karbo & Marty O'Neil).

The A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel continues to be a fighting champion, with his matches and activities being coordinated by four time A.W.A. Manager Of The Year Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. Probably Nick's two biggest consistent threats to the crown have been The Incredible Hulk Hogan and Otto Wanz, the European Heavyweight Champion.

Greg Gagne and "Jumping" Jim Brunzell are still the A.W.A. World's Tag Team Champions, but The High Flyers also have to contend with Heenan, as his team of The Black & Blue Express (Ken Patera & "Big Bad' Bobby Duncum) are in serious contention for their coveted title belts.

There have been some different faces on the A.W.A. mats since our last report. Active in recent weeks have been a number of returning A.W.A. familiar faces such as Jesse "The Body" Ventura, "Golden Boy" Adrian Adonis, Larry "The Axe" Hennig, Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon, and Steve Olsonoski.

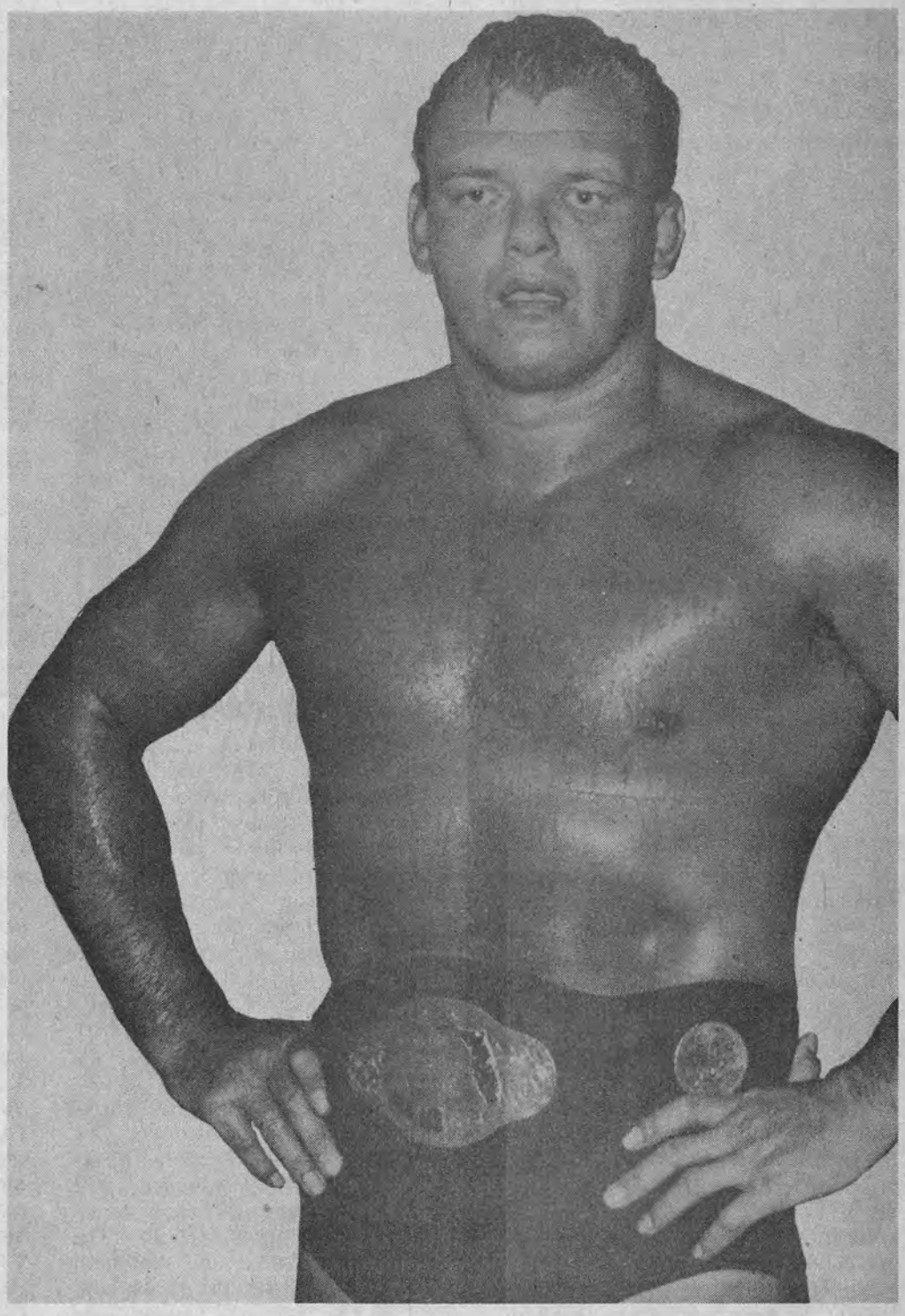
"Rock & Roll" Buck Zum Hofe and Brad Rheingans

Others who have wrestled recently under the A.W.A. banner include: Jerry Blackwell, Sheik Adnann El Kaissey, Ray "The Crippler" Stevens, Pat Patterson, "Rock & Roll" Buck Zum Hofe, Brad Rheingans, Baron Von Raschke, Sgt. Jacque Goulet, Pepper Gomez, Tito Santana, Ricky Martel, Dick The Bruiser, "Rocky" Tom Stone, "Sodbuster" Kenny Jay, Herman Schafer, Christ Curtis, Tony Leone, Jake Milamen, Torpedo Guzman, Julio Rodriquez and Woody Wilson.

Another group of promoters in Texas and New Mexico operate under the banner of "Southwest Championship Wrestling." This organization's president is former wrestling great Joe Blanchard. Another key promoter is Houston's Paul Boesch. At the present time they recognize Nick Bockwinkel's A.W.A. World's Heavyweight Championship, but have a different set of wrestlers and other championships. Other current recognized titles are: Southwest Heavyweight Champion — The Mongolian Stomper, managed by Don Carson, World's Tag Team Champions — Tully Blanchard and "Gorgeous" Gino Hernandez, Junior Heavyweight Champion — Chavo Guerrero, International Heavyweight Champion — Bruiser Brody, Brass Knucks Champion — Bruiser Brody. This promotion is one of the fastest expanding ones currently active in the business with mat happenings being promoted by them in San Antonio, Houston, Corpus Christi, Austin, Laredo, Waco, Port Arthur, Amarillo, Brownsville, Farmington, Victoria, Midland, Odessa, in Texas, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Cards are scheduled soon in other Texas cities such as Dallas, Ft. Worth, and El Paso. I recently had the pleasure of spending four days in Texas covering their cards, and everywhere I traveled I saw not only top notch action supplied by some of the very best professional wrestlers, but also huge crowds.

The Mongolian Stomper and manager Don Carson have been high on the fans' hate list since taking away the Southwest Heavyweight Championship from Dick Slater in San Antonio with highly controversial tactics. Slater of course is still hot on his trail, but now they have another bitter enemy in the person of Bob Sweetan. This feud stems back to a couple of occassions when Carson interrupted Sweetan when he was being interviewed for T.V. Tired of this, Sweetan took it upon himself to literally rip one of Don's tuxedos right off his back. The Stomper entered the fray on behalf of his manager and cut up Bob with a

JOHNNY VALENTINE'S SCHOOL OF WRESTLING CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL



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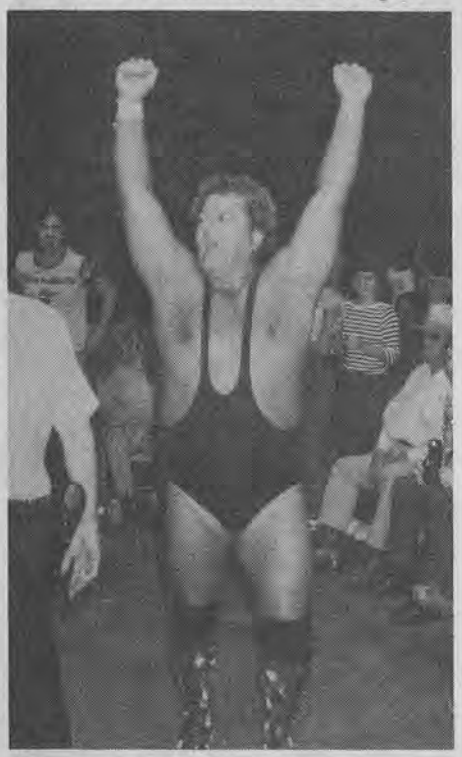
mysterious black glove. Since that day Texas doesn't seem to be big enough for both Sweetan and The Stomper.

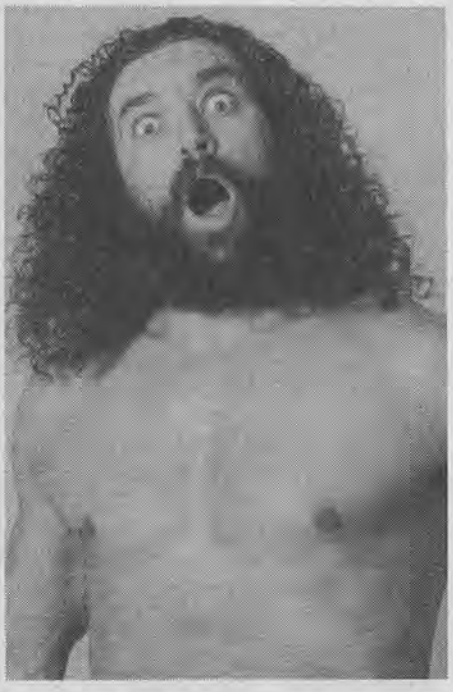


Bob "Mr. Piledriver" Sweetan

Sweetan, who no longer wants to be called "Bruiser" but "Mr. Piledriver" instead, also has been feuding with Jerry "The King" Lawler. Bob has been out to prove that he is the true master of the dreaded piledriver hold. Rumor has it that comedian Andy Kaufman is behind this feud, and is using Sweetan to try and avenge the humiliating experiences that he has recently suffered at the hands of Lawler.

Another red hot vendetta involves the teams of Tully Blanchard & "Gorgeous" Gino Hernandez and Ken Lucas & Ricky Morton. The Dynamic Duo viciously attacked Ken and Ricky recently on T.V., when they had been awarded a trophy from area fans as the number one tag team. They used what appeared to be a knife to cut up Lucas' arm, the wound required over twenty stitches. They later bragged that it would be a long time before Ken would be applying a sleeper hold to anyone. Lucas has recovered and along with Morton, he is seeking to gain revenge on Blanchard and Hernandez, and rewin the tag team title, which they have held in the past.

A.W.A. Champion Nick Bockwinkel has been active in the area, recently putting his title laurels on the line against Bruiser Brody and Dick Slater. But the competition doesn't stop there, others such as Scott Casey, Ricky Morton, and The Junkyard Dog have also been giving Bock some anxious moments.



Bruiser Brody

Others wrestling recently for "Southwest Championship Wrestling" not already mentioned include: Mil Mascaras, Ernie "The Cat" Ladd, Terry Funk, El Gran Apollo, Tiger Conway Jr., "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, "Killer" Tim Brooks, The Grappler, Bill Ash, "Polish Power" Ivan Putski, Tom Jones, Ron Cheatham, Cocoa Samoa, El Santo Negro, Buddy Landell, Frank Monte, Grenade Bowyer, Larry Lane, Ken Johnson, Tom Saxon, Dusty Woods, and lady wrestlers Judy Martin and Sheri Martel.

Next we look at the Memphis booking office, which also recognizes A.W.A. Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel, but like Texas maintains its own group of wrestlers and recognizes different other champions.

Recent title action saw Jerry "The King" Lawler take the Southern Heavyweight Title from Kimala, managed by James J. Dillon. That match took place in Memphis on August 9th in Memphis, under no disqualification — no time limit rules. In addition to get the match, Lawler had waged his hair against winning the title. The victory was a very popular one with area fans.

Jerry "The King" Lawler

On the tag team front August 9th also saw the Southern Tag Team Title change hands. James J. Dillon's duo of Jim "The Claw" Mitchell and The Dream Machine upset Ron Bass and Stan Lane for the coveted belts. Earlier wrestling's odd couple (Bass & Lane) had taken those same honors from Dennis Condrey and Norvel Austin.

The other recognized title, The Mid American Heavyweight Championship, was won back by "Superstar" Bill Dundee from Bobby Eaton during a T.V. match taped in Memphis. I might add that Dutch Mantell played a part in this action by making sure that Eaton's manager Jimmy Hart wasn't able to interfere in the match.

In a strange turn of events Hart sat in Jerry Lawler's corner when he battled Kamala. It seems that the two have a mutual enemy in the person of James J. Dillon. Lawler has his sights on N.W.A. Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair, and hopes to challenge him in the very near future. "The King" by the way has been challenged to a boxer vs. wrestler match by actor Tony Danza. Mr. Danza is a member of the cast of T.V. show "Taxi" and has taken great exception to the recent humiliation that Lawler imposed upon Andy Kaufman when they both recently appeared on David Letterman's national T.V. program.

Others wrestling recently in the Memphis area include: Steve Keirn, The Angel, Carl Fergie, Terry Taylor, King Cobra, Sweet Brown Sugar,

"Handsome" Jimmy Valiant, Bobby Fulton, Ricky Morton, The Iron Sheik, J.R. Hart Jr., The Enforcer, Joe Stark, Roy Rogers, Ric McCord, The Invader, Gypsy Joe, and The Assassins.

Another office which falls under the banner of the A.W.A. since they recognize A.W.A. Heavyweight Champion is the Calgary, Alberta, Canada booking office which is headed by former wrestling great Stu Hart. This is an old and very active promotion that presents weekly cards in such cities as Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, Lethbridge, Medicene Hat, Dawson Creek, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Yorkton, and Butte.

Promoter Stu Hart has long brought many of Great Britain's top stars over from across the seas to compete in his Foothills Athletic Club territory and he continues this policy today. The most current notable is of course the sensational Dynamite Kid (Tommy Billington.)

A.W.A. Heavyweight Champion Nick Bockwinkel recently had his hands full in the area when he placed the crown on the line against Mr. Hito and Bret Hart, one of Stu's sons who have decided to follow in their father's footsteps in the pro wrestling ring.

Nick Bockwinkel

A recent title change did occur during this year's Calgary Stampede wrestling card, when twenty year old Davey Boy Smith upset The Dynamite Kid for the recognized Mid Heavyweight Championship. Manager John Foley protested on behalf of his man The Dynamite Kid, that they were victim of a fast count, but officials saw it differently, and the decision stands.

On the tag team scene The Dynamite Kid still reigns as one half of The International Tag Team Champions along with partner Duke Myers. Another tough combo competiting in area rings is the duo of Danny Davis and Ken Wayne.

Others recently wrestling in this area not already mentioned include: "Bad News' Allen Coage, Jim Neidhart, Tony Rocco, Mach Hayato, Great Gama, Jerry Morrow, Ho Chi Lau, Mike Hammer, Bruce Hart, Keith Hart, Elton Stanton, and Cedric Hathaway.

Next we take a look at The Pacific Wrestling Federation which is headed by President Lord James Blears. This organization holds memberships in both the A.W.A. and N.W.A., and promotes in Japan under the banner of "All Japan Pro Wrestling." Most of the recognized champions remain the same as last issue, except in the case of the United National Heavyweight Championship, which was won by Harley Race from Tomi "Jumbo" Tsuruta on August 1st. Earlier Tsuruta had made a brilliant defense of the title, when he battled Mil Mascaras to a draw.

Their recognized Junior Heavyweight Championship is currently being held up. Atsushi Onita, the International Junior Heavyweight Champion, had won the title from Ultra Seven, but later was overcome by Chavo Guerrero. The high flying Mexican star has held these honors in the past. The decision was disputed so the belt has been held up.

Other recognized champions in this promotion are: Pacific Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion — Shohei "Giant" Baba, International Heavyweight Champion — Bruiser Brody, International Tag Team Champions — Baba & Tsuruta, Asian Tag Team Champions — Takashi Ishikawa and Akio Sato.

As we go to press a number series of matches is starting with wrestlers flying in such as Terry Funk, Stan Hansen, Ron Bass, The Sensational Intelligent Destroyer, Rufus R. Jones, Jerry Blackwell, and Ultra Seven to take part.

THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

We will start our coverage of the W.W.F. as always with a report on the "New Japan Pro Wrestling" promotion, headed by Hisashi Shimma. Mr. Shimma is of course also the president of the entire W.W.F. This promotion based in Japan holds a membership in the N.W.A., as well as in the W.W.F.

The recognized champions by this group are Antonio Inoki as World's Martial Arts Champion, and Tiger

Tiger Mask

Mask as the Junior Heavyweight Champion. Tiger Mask by the way, is the only man to hold both the N.W.A. and W.W.F. Junior Heavyweight Championships concurrently.

Inoki had to cancel out of a recent scheduled match with "Golden Boy" Adrian Adonis, when he became ill and was taken to the hospital to be tested for diabetis. We are happy to report that he is now returned to fine health, and has resumed his ring career.

Adonis along with manager Fred Blassie did raise quite a bit of havoc during their recent Japanese campaign. Adonis was disqualified in big matches against both Seiji Sakaguchi and tatsumi Fujinami, when Blassie interfered in the action on his behalf.

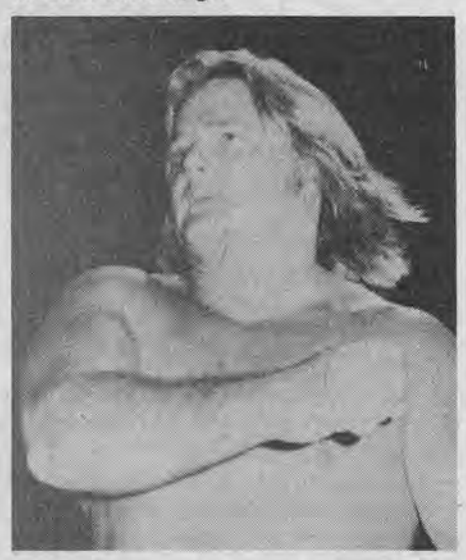
Black Tiger

Recent title action has found Bob Backlund successfully defending the W.W.F. Heavyweight Title against Fujinami, and Tiger Mask turning back the challenges of both The Dynamite Kid and Bret Hart. Black Tiger, a former champion, is returning to Japan to challenge Tiger Mask next. Other contenders seeking immediate cracks at that title include Chris Adams and Villano III.

Other wrestlers flying to Japan to compete in this upcoming series are: Hulk Hogan, The Masked Superstar, Sgt. Slaughter, Pete Roberts, and the returning duo of Rusher Kimura and Go Ryuma.

Traveling on to Mexico we look at the W.W.F. affiliate known as "Universal Wrestling Association," which is headed by Mr. Francisco Flores. Our information is sketchy on this organization, and we don't have a list of current recognized champions. According to the latest magazines from Mexico that we received from correspondent John Pinzker the following wrestlers were active recently on cards in Mexico: Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas, El Solitario, Perro Aguayo, Baby Face, Gran Hamada, Dr. Wagner, Angel Blanco, Anibal, Negro Navarro, Matematico, Brazos Oro and Plata, Enrique Vera, Texano, El Signo, Sergio El Hermoso, Bello Greco, Rudy Reyna, Rizado Ruiz, Lobo Rubio, Escorpio, Flama Azul, Villano III, El Olimpico, Fili Estrella, Arturito, Gran Nicolai, Peqeno Goliath, Saito, Takano, Ricki Chosyu, and lady wrestlers Lola Gonzalez, The Monster, and Las Irmas.

We also do not have much current information on the Los Angeles booking office headed by Mike LeBell. We do know that this promotion holds matches under the "Atlantic & Pacific Wrestling Corp." banner and holds memberships in both the N.W.A. and W.W.F. Recent action at the Los Angeles Olympic Auditorium saw Bob Backlund defend the W.W.F. Heavyweight Title against Greg "The Hammer" Valentine. "Golden Boy" Adrian Adonis, "Quickdraw" Rick McGraw, Fred Blassie, and midget stars have been big attractions recently in L.A. area rings.



Greg "The Hammer" Valentine

This promotion also runs cards at the Showboat Sports Pavilion in Las Vegas and wrestlers featured there recently have included: Diamond Timothy Flowers III, Exotic Adrian Street, Black Gordman, Killer Kim, Black Man, Mr. Go, Mr. Toyo, and Hector & Mando Guerrero.

There are other W.W.F. offices in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and Honolulu, Hawaii, which we don't have current information on at this point. If any of you readers can supply us with such news, we will gladly write it up to share with all.

Last but certainly not least we look at the "Capitol Wrestling Corporation," which is run by Vince McMahon and Phil Zacko, with their office being located in Washington, D.C. This promotion, one of the oldest, most successful, and most prestious holds memberships in both the W.W.F. and N.W.A.

Bob Backlund as one can gather from previous paragraphs in this column, has had his usual busy month of defending his title in a variety of locations. The Princeton, Minnesota mat heavyweight continues to face strong challenges in the persons of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and Cowboy Bob Orton. Another man who is really pressing the champion is "Playboy" Buddy Rose. And if that isn't enough to make things hectic for Bob, the man he originally won the crown from, "Superstar" Billy Graham, has recently returned to the W.W.F.

The W.W.F. Tag Team Champions as we go to press are still Mr. Fuji and Mr. Saito. But here again, the question remains as to how long they will be able to retain the title. Chief Jay and Jules Strongbow are their biggest threat. The popular Indian brothers previously won the title from the Japanese duo, but lost it back to them in a rematch held on T.V. Another combination known only as The Demons have also been winning a number of recent outings, and could give the champs a run for the money.

The W.W.F. boasts one of the most impressive arrays of talent ever assembled under one promotional banner. Current W.W.F. competitors not already mentioned include: "Polish Power" Ivan Putski, current Inter-Continental Heavyweight Champion

Swede Hanson

Area Closeups
Continued on page 48

Greg Gagne & "Jumping" Jim Brunzell top Santana & Martel in A.W.A. Scientific Tag Team Duel

By James C. Melby

Photos By Bruce Krietzman

Greg Gagne and "Jumpin" Jim Brunzell are the biggest box office attractions to ever wear the coveted A.W.A. World's Tag Team Championships belts. When they won the crown the first time, they were just coming into their own as a tag team unit. Now they are seasoned veterans, as much in demand by promoters in Japan and Germany, as they are throughout North America.

But things have changed somewhat for The High Flyers. They now find some fans pulling against them. They no longer are the underdogs, they are the champions that many people would like to see toppled from their throne.

Greg and Jim are still relatively young wrestlers, with long careers ahead of them, but they are no longer among the group considered the young lions of the sport. Gagne and Brunzell have established themselves as solid main eventers, they are two of the biggest names of the ring today.

The High Flyers recently were put in a position of being challenged by a tag team combinaton, that must have reminded them of how they were just a few short years ago. The newly formed duo of Tito Santana and Ricky Martel was destined to present a very unique challenge to the kingpins. Here were two young, finely conditioned athletes, that wrestled much in the same vogue as themselves.

Greg and Jim had to train extra hard for this title defense. They knew that no rules were to be broken, but if one mistake or miscalculation was made, they might suddenly find themselves being upset by two very popular and hungry young mat lions. Martel and Santana were seeking their time in the limelight, and it was their goal to defeat the best team in the A.W.A. at their own game — lightning fast tags and rapid scientific wrestling.

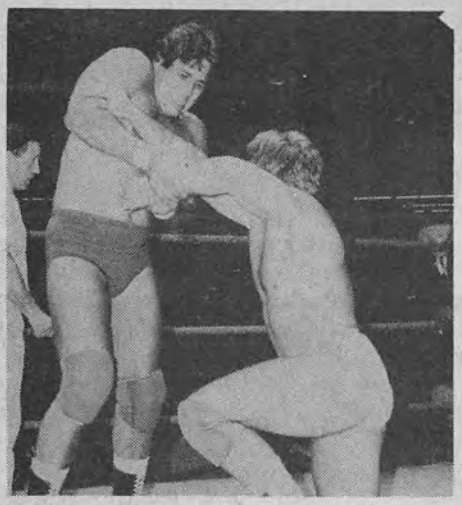
The match itself proved to be the most exciting and fast paced scientific ring duel between two tag teams that this writer has had the pleasure of seeing in all the years that I have been covering the sport. The advantage in the bout switched from team to team dozens of times. On many occasions Tito and Ricky used trademarks of The High Flyers such as dropkicks so effectively, that it looked like the belts might be within their grasp. It was experience and a little bit of luck that finally saw Greg and Jim take the verdict. The end of the match came about when Tito tried to finish off Jim with a flying cross bodyblock. At the last moment Brunzell dived on the canvas out of harm's way and Santana's momentum carried him out thru the ropes, where he landed with a thud on the cement ringside floor. As a result of his miscalculation he was counted out of the ring by the referee.

So Gagne and Brunzell won this first round, but will they be able to brush off future challenges from this new team? Only time will tell!

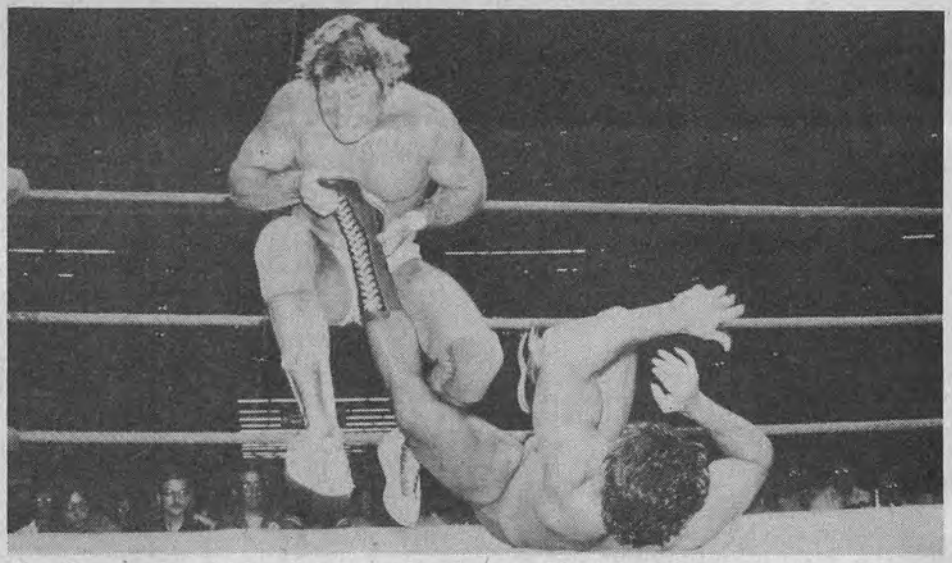
Jim Brunzell and Tito Santana strained every muscle in their body when they hooked up in a mid-ring test of strength and tried for an advantage.

Scientific moves such as headlocks were the order of the day, here we see Ricky Martel gaining the upper hand on Greg Gagne.

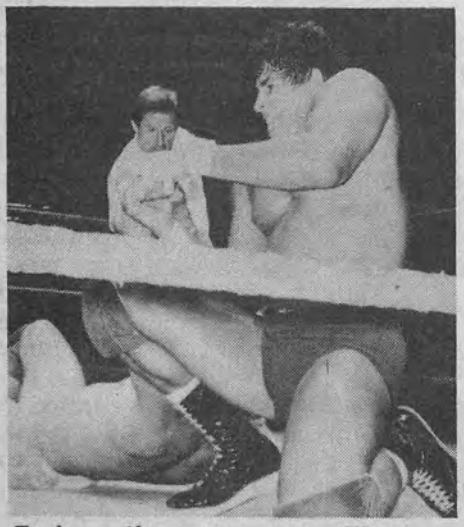
Gagne showed Santana a few fundamentals too, here he made the Latin star suffer with a step-over-toe hold.



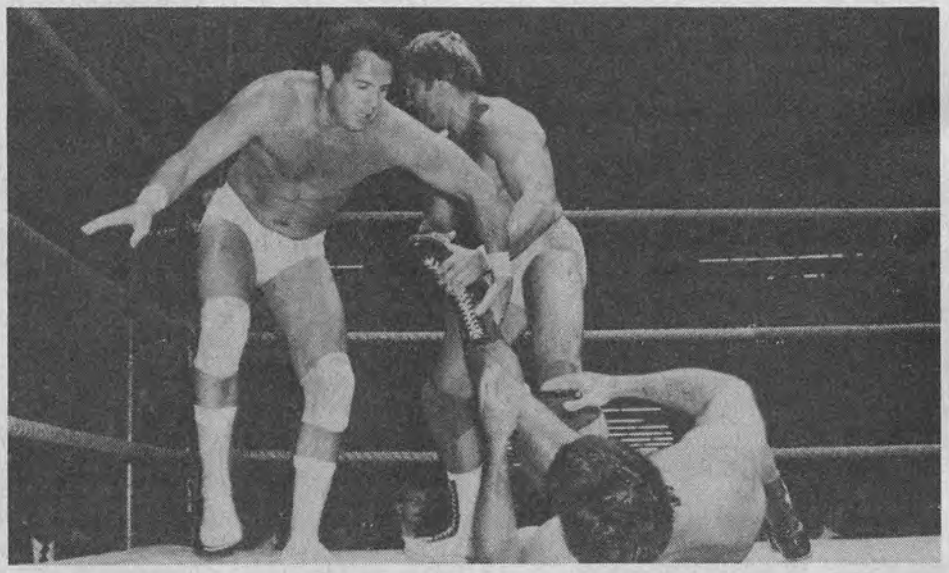
Tito Santana was playing for keeps when he twisted Jim Brunzell's arm into a very uncomfortable position.



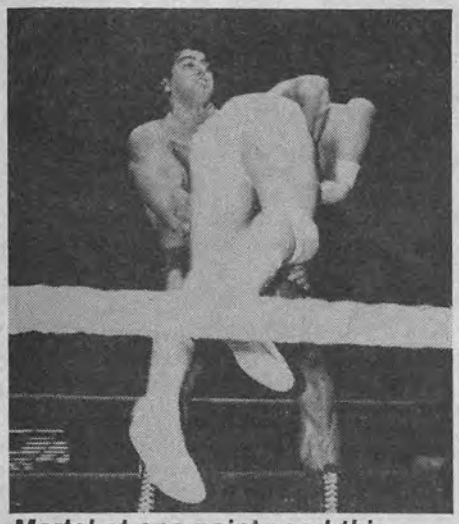
Jim Brunzell put his all into softening up Martel with a knee thrust to the leg.



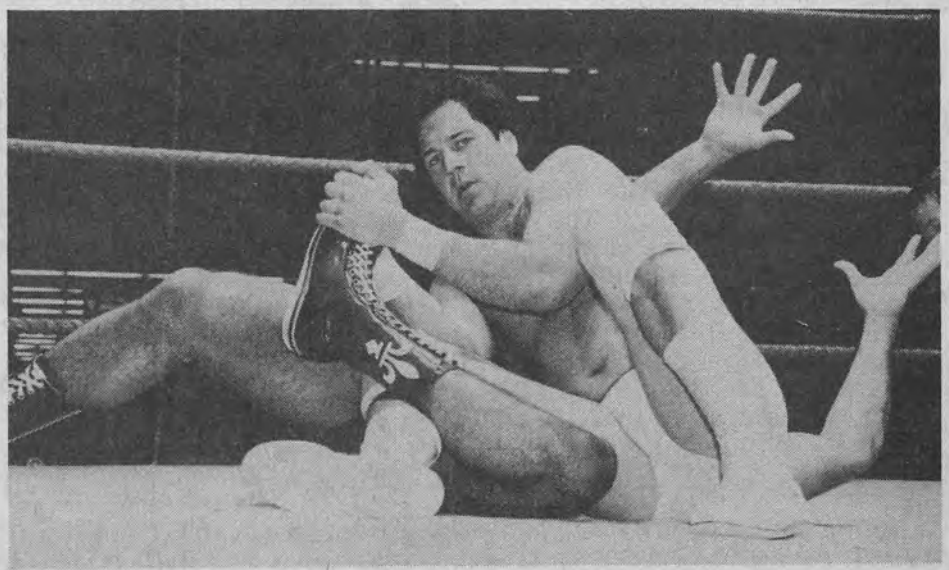
To keep the pressure on, Tito used his leg to act as lever to make Brunzell endure even more unpleasantries.



Greg took the tag-off from Jim to move in and continue working on Ricky's leg.



Martel at one point used this suplex variation to shake up Greg Gagne.



Martel was really hurting as Gagne kept up the attack on his legs.

THE WRESTLING NEWS® - WHAT IS IT?

Although I have written all this before in previous issues, there still appears to be some confusion about just exactly what The Wrestling News is and how it and Pro Wrestling Enterprises, The Ring Publishing Corporation, and Wrestling Revue are related.

The Wrestling News is a monthly magazine that covers the sport of wrestling. It is solely owned by Pro Wrestling Enterprises - a sole proprietorship owned by Norman H. Kietzer.

In 1979 Pro Wrestling Enterprises entered into a joint venture with The Ring Publishing Corporation. They were then publishing a not very successful news stand wrestling magazine - The Ring Wrestling - and they offered to turn over that magazine to Pro Wrestling Enterprises which was then publishing The Wrestling News - a magazine with large arena sales but no news stand distribution contract.

Under terms of the agreement - Pro Wrestling Enterprises was given all rights to The Ring Wrestling - including full editorial control, all subscription rights, and final approval of all advertising. A similar arrangement was made this year with Ring Publishing concerning Wrestling Revue.

What our joint venture with The Ring Publishing Corporation consists of is exactly this. They turned over all rights to the two titles to Pro Wrestling Enterprises. We merged the two news stand titles - The Ring Wrestling and Wrestling Revue - into The Wrestling News. In return we gave The Ring Publishing Corporation the exclusive news stand distribution rights to the new publication. This is being done by The Ring under existing contracts they held for The Ring for the Ring's Wrestling and Wrestling Revue. The Ring Publishing Corporation also does the printing of all issues.

Pro Wrestling Enterprises is the exclusive distributor for arena sales (sales at wrestling matches), and subscription sales of The Wrestling News. Also, Pro Wrestling Enterprises is very much involved in the publishing of official programs for many top major league promotions in our great sport.

Because of our acquisition in 1979 of The Ring's Wrestling Magazine and more recently this year of Wrestling Revue magazine - there has been some confusion of just exactly what The Wrestling News is and consists of because we have retained the titles of The Ring's Wrestling Magazine and Wrestling Revue under the umbrella of The Wrestling News. Very simply - we merged The Ring's Wrestling Magazine and Wrestling Revue into The Wrestling News - and we now publish one issue of our international magazine each month. On even numbered months it is called The Wrestling News/The Ring's Wrestling Magazine with Wrestling Magazine logo predominent on the cover. On odd months it is called The Wrestling News/Wrestling Revue with Wrestling Revue logo predominent on the cover. We use two different cover styles because we have two different six issue per year news stand distribution contracts through The Ring Publishing Corporation which they acquired with the titles. No matter what the future status of The Ring's contracts, Pro Wrestling Enterprises has pledged to put out a new issues of The Wrestling News every month and if possible through this arranged with The Ring Corporation or through additional arrangements to increase the frequency in the future. Note that if there is a change in frequency all subscribers are guaranteed to receive the full number of issues that they have paid for.

In short, The Ring Publishing Corporation has turned over these titles and given Pro Wrestling Enterprises exclusive control of all of its activities concerning professional wrestling, and Pro Wrestling Enterprises puts together a wrestling magazine of which The Ring Corporation prints and is the exclusive news stand distributor of, while Pro Wrestling Enterprises retains subscription rights, arena distribution rights, and all rights to the material contained in the magazines.

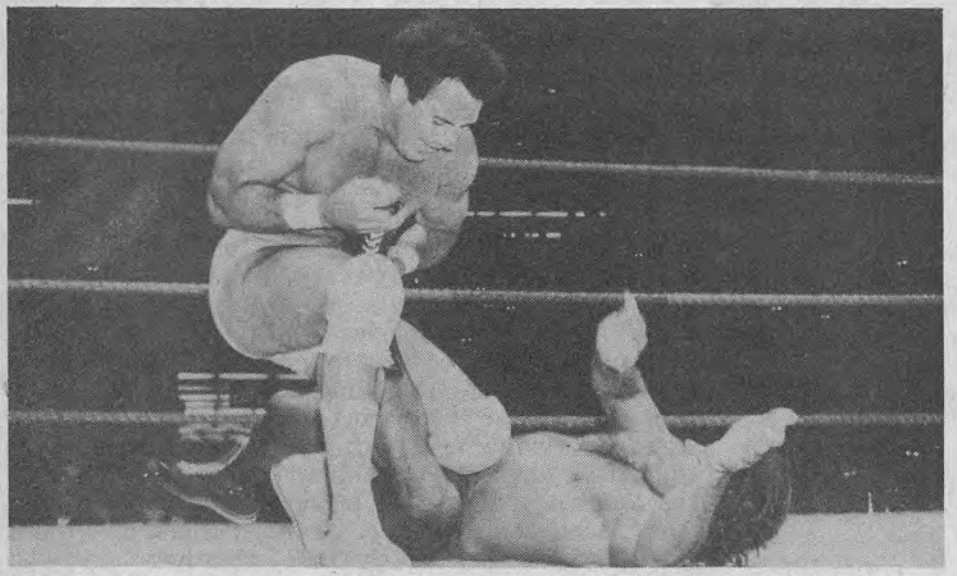
It is our determination to keep The Wrestling News a magazine which a man or woman may take home and leave on the library table safe in the knowledge that it does not contain one line of matter either in text or the advertisements which would be offensive. The publisher of The Wrestling News guards this reputation of his magazines jealously. It is our aim to publish a magazine that is entertaining and that is clean.

Although we will not explain in detail here our standards for acceptance of advertising, you will find that they are far higher than those of previous publishers of The Ring Wrestling and Wrestling Revue. We have determined that one of the major causes of failure of those two titles before we took them over was that the type of advertising they accepted much of which was offensive to the vast majority of the potential readers of the magazines - professional wrestling fans. The Wrestling News is produced for the serious fan of our great sport. We will do our utmost to make certain that in the future when you respond to an advertisement in our publication you will not think you are ordering pictures of professional wrestlers and then receive instead photos of models or others purporting to be professional wrestlers but who actually have no connection with the sport. Nor will such material which has no connection with the sport of professional wrestling ever again be included in our magazine. We will do our very best to make certain that no individual or firm that deals in sexual, nudist, pornographic, or other offensive material is every again allowed to advertise in The Wrestling News.

We know that the major reason for the great increases in circulation and readership of The Wrestling News after The Ring Wrestling and Wrestling Revue were merged into it) over what those two publications had before we took over is our elimination of what we consider extremely sleezy advertisements which previous publishers ran in them, and replacing it with more and better content both editorially and in advertising. The fact that both subscription/arena sales through us, and news stand sales through The Ring Publishing Corporation, have increased in a period of less than perfect ecconomic conditions is proof positive to us that we are on the right track in our efforts to produce the best possible wrestling magazine. We have only one group to thank for the gratifying situation of finding acceptance for the changes (we hope improvements) we have made and will strive to continue to make - you the readers who buy The Wrestling News each month.

A rough but legal move was this judo chop to the throat that Greg used on Ricky, the match was heated, but waged within the confines of the rulebook.

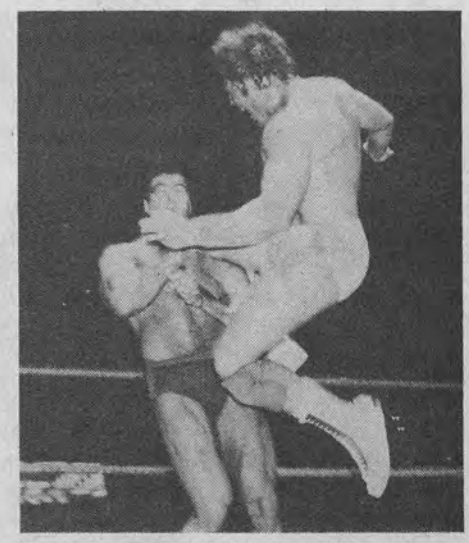
Gagne was flying indeed, when Martel caught him with a reverse monkey flip.



The High Flyers seemed to concentrate on Martel's legs, maybe they thought they had discovered a weakness in his defense there.

Martel did some flying too, when Brunzell grabbed him and tossed him across the ring.

It looked like curtains for the champions when Martel trapped Gagne in a Boston crab hold, but Greg refused to submit.



Jim stopped Ricky dead in his tracks with a flying knee jolt to the chin.

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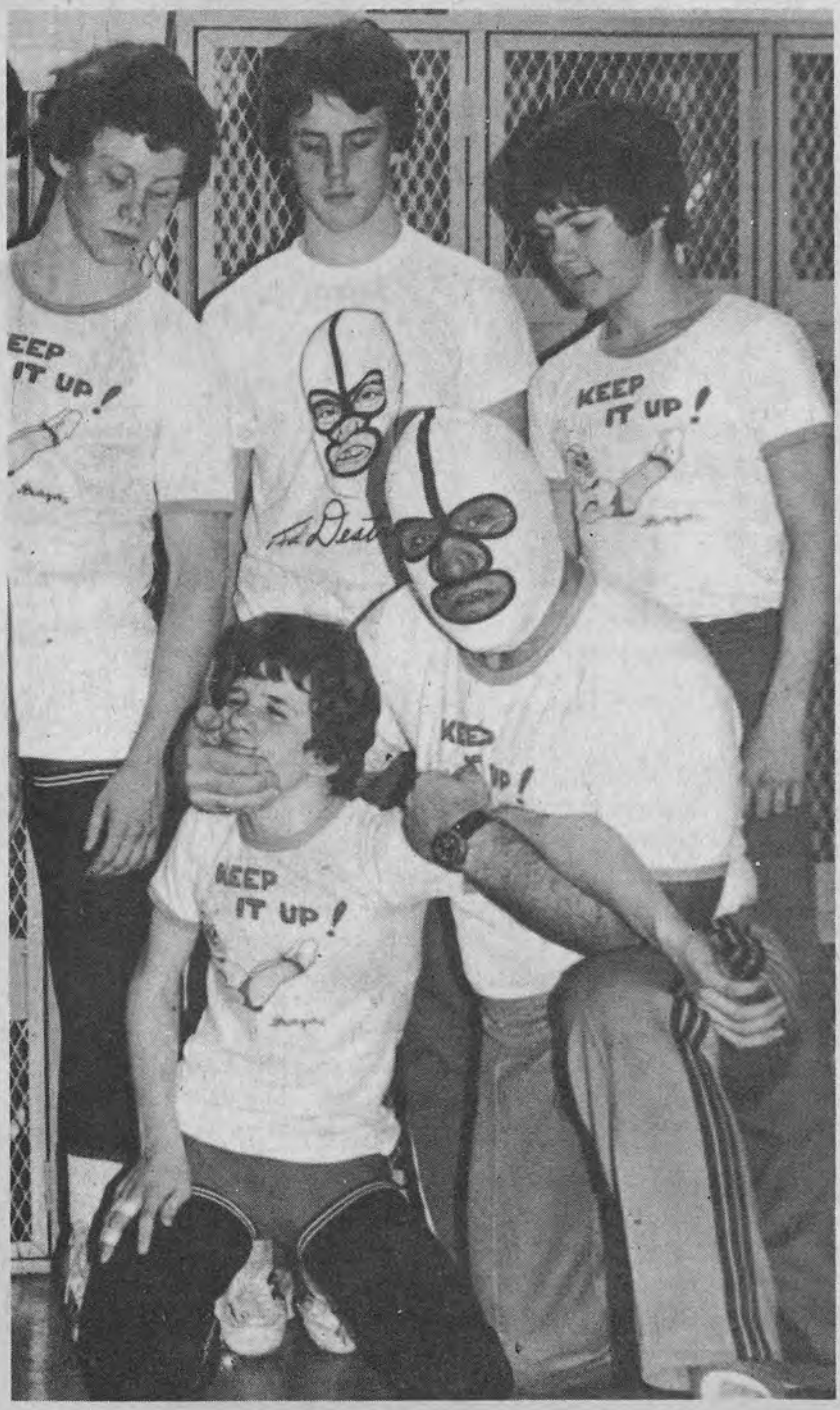

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The Iron Sheik — Brutality For Hire

By Jim Cornette

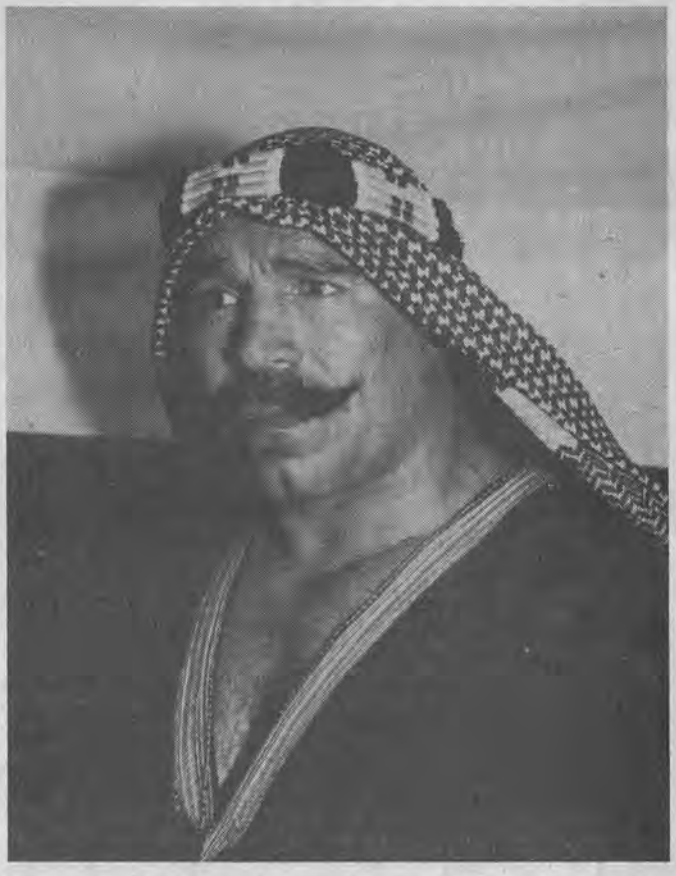
The list of brutal, sadistic, vicious grapplers recruited by manager Jimmy Hart for his First Family of Professional Wrestling is a lengthy one, with names like Killer Karl Krupp, El Mongol, Terry Funk, the Cuban and Iranian Assassins, and other such wrestling personalities who take extreme pleasure in inflicting pain on their foes. Of course, Hart in his three years in managing has guided over 50 different wrestlers, and the majority of these have been great athletes and talented wrestlers with just too much ego, too little moral backbone, or a bullying streak which prevented them from wrestling by the rules.

But in the other few cases, those men in the sport that are animalistic, psychotic, sadistic, or just plain brutal, Hart has found great success. He uses these men as mercenaries, hired killers, specifically to injure opponents and strike fear into the hearts of enemies of the Family. Hart is known for finding these men, and for giving them free reign to run rampant.

This knowledge prepared no one for the Iron Sheik. Without doubt, no one that Hart has ever managed has made such an impact on the mid-south area as the man from Teheran, Iran. Hart's dealings with him, his negotiations for contracts, were entirely secret until Hart burst him upon the scene in early May and sent him out to run roughshod over everyone who stood in his way.

Unbelievable as it may seem to those who have witnessed his biting, gouging tactics in the ring, the Iron Sheik is probably the mosted talented amateur and collegiate-style wrestler in the sport. His credentials are impressive and numerous — Iranian High School champion four times, Iranian Army Champion, Gold Medal winner in the European Amateur Championships, member of the Iranian Olympic Team in the 1968 Mexico City games, National AAU Champion three consecutive years. During his time in the Iranian Army his prowess was so well-regarded that he was selected to be a personal bodyguard for the wife of the Shah of Iran.

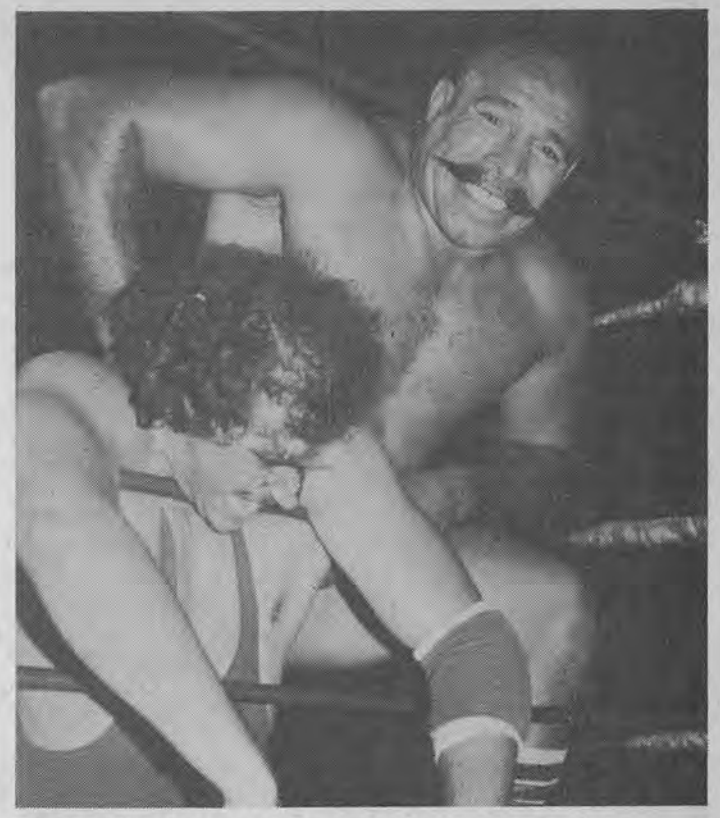
When he came to the United States, he brought all this talent with him, but a deep hatred for the U.S. as well. An Iranian patriot to the extreme, he has not just enraged fans, but left them foaming at the mouth by his waving of the Iranian flag, his total arrogance in his belief that the Iranian people are superior to Americans in every way, and his totally disgusting tirades not just insulting but villifying the United States in every way possible. He claims that the only reason he is in this country is to defeat American after American to prove Iran's superiority, and at the same time make fools of the citizens of the U.S. by carrying bushels full of American dollars. At the very mention of praise for the U.S., he flies into an uncontrollable rage.



After coming to this country, he evidently saw that professional wrestling was a better "soapbox" for his political views, and left the amateurs in 1972. He has in his years as a pro held the Australian Heavyweight Title, Canadian Heavyweight crown, the Northwest Heavyweight belt and the Mid-Atlantic Heavyweight Championship. He has appeared in every major area of the country and stars that have fallen before his all-out attack include men like Jesse Ventura, "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, Chief Jay Strongbow, Ted DiBiase, Jim Brunzell, Pedro Morales, Blackjack Mulligan, Mr. Wrestling 2, Bad, Bad LeRoy Brown and current NWA World Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair.

So, it was this man, a combination of a superb athlete, a vicious mauler, and a slightly over-the-edge political zealot that Hart unleashed upon the area. And unleashed is a poper term, for he began literally plowing his way through every single wrestler that was thrown or was brave enough to step into his path. Claiming that to wrestle by the rules would show respect for his American opponents that he does not have, he instead chose to subject them to tactics illegal in a bar fight, and in running roughshod over competitors like Danny Davis, Roy Rogers, Bobby Fulton, Joe Stark, and Ric McCord, he used chairs, ring steps, microphone cords,

The Iron Sheik gnaws on Joe Stark's bloody forehead in a disgusting display of brutality.



The Sheik continued his punishment of Stark by choking his dazed opponent with the ring ropes.

restraining ropes even the men's own ring jackets to choke them, beat them, and reduce them to bloody messes. However, a man with the pride of the Iron Sheik could not totally refrain from showing his wrestling ability, just to taunt the fans, and in each victory delivered the "coup de grace" in the form of a different variety of devastating suplex. Thes varied forms of suplexes are the Iron Sheik's most crippling legal weapon, and whether it be a vertical suplex, double-arm suplex, belly-to-back suplex or belly-to-belly Iranian suplex, the effect is the same — total destruction.

Hart and the Sheik quickly became the talk of wrestlers and fans in the area, and the speculation centered upon what direction Hard would send his newest "artillery" in. The opponents Hart had been signing the Sheik to face were talented young wrestlers, but lacked the size and experience to cope with the tactics the Sheik employed. Most thought Hart would arrange the Iranian's first serious challenge to be Jerry "The King" Lawler, the crafty manager's number one enemy.

But fate, and the Sheik's own arrogance stepped in. When he first arrived in the area, as yet another way of showing Iranian superiority, the Sheik had publicly laid down his Persian Club challenge. The Persian Clubs, two 75 pound wooden pieces of exercise equipment, are thought of in Iran as what separates the men from the boys, so to speak. In proper use they are grasped by the ends, lifted over the head and dipped and raised in repetition. Several wrestlers had tried, but no one could even get the clubs above their heads.

Enter the "Outlaw," Ron Bass. While the Sheik was destroying another opponent on TV, Bass was doing guest commentary, and his curiousity got the better of him. He walked over, picked up the clubs and began doing repetitions. The Sheik, who had stated that he would pay $1,000 to any man who could do half as many repetitions as he, was so enraged at seeing an American that could do the clubs at all that he raced out of the ring, grabbed one of the clubs, and smashed Bass in the head with it. As a result, the fans took the side of the formerly hated Bass in his attempts to settle the score with the Sheik, but also saw the Sheik become even more despised, as to combat a bigger man like Bass the Sheik resorted to pulling a metal, pointed butcher knife out of his boot and slicing Bass' forehead into a bloody pulp. Everyone who witnessed this sickening spectacle grew to hate the Sheik more than ever, and if the Sheik were not such an egotistical man he would have begun fearing for his life. The combination of his flag-waving, his outspoken political views, and his disgusting and outrageous ring tactics had come close to inciting more than one riot.

With fans calling for a lynching and all the wrestlers in the area screaming for a chance to shut his mouth, a prudent man would have laid low for a few weeks. Instead, the Sheik and Hart issued a press release among these lines —

"The Sheik will not stick to the rules," Hart said, "because the fans are not worthy of seeing his wrestling talent and there are no American wrestlers he respects enough. The final straw for him came when the U.S. negotiated the release of the

The Sheik nearly decapitated Stark with the point of a metal ringside chair when they carried their battle outside of the ring.

hostages. He felt it was a slap in the face of his country, that they should have been tried as spies and dealt with to prove the power of Iran."

"Iron Sheik take no hostages!" The Sheik stated. "Iron Sheik do what Khomeini should have. Put to death! Put U.S. to death!"

Needless to say this was not a well-received statement, and the Sheik quickly became, if he had not already been, the most hated man in wrestling. But then, an incident occurred which would soon electrify the entire area and bring about one of the most violent matches in the mid-south's history.

Jerry Lawler, after the conclusion of a match, was involved in a brawl with Jimmy Hart, who was definitely getting the worst part of it. Into the ring came the Iron Sheik, who proceeded to slice Lawler's head wide open with a metal can opener, then suplex and piledrive him into unconciousness. When Lawler came to, he was furious over the attack and demanded to be able to meet the Sheik in the ring, face to face, not only to pay him back for the Pearl Harbor attack, but also to finish once and for all his slandering of the U.S.

The statements the three involved, Lawler, Hart, and The Sheik, made in interviews before the match left nothing to the imagination as to how they felt about the issue.

"This is a match I've been waiting for!" Lawler said. "We forget how fortunate we are to be born in the greatest country on earth. But for awhile, we couldn't hold our heads up proudly, couldn't brag. On Nov. 4, 1979, for 444 days, a little insignificant country took 52 of our Americans hostage, and for 444 days we were embarrassed, humiliated, and laughed at. They took the American flag and put garbage in it, carried it in and out of that Embassy, and they BURNED the American flag. And because we had a guy in the White House that didn't have enough guts to do anything about it, we had to sit and watch. Well that's where the Iron Sheik is from, Iran, and he's proud of it. He hates you, he hates me, he hates all Americans. Well I'm gonna show him what an American will do that has enough guts to stand up to him.I'm gonna make him wish he was back in that hellhole of Iran, and I wish he'd take every other stinkin' Iranian back there with him!"

The Sheik was equally enraged.

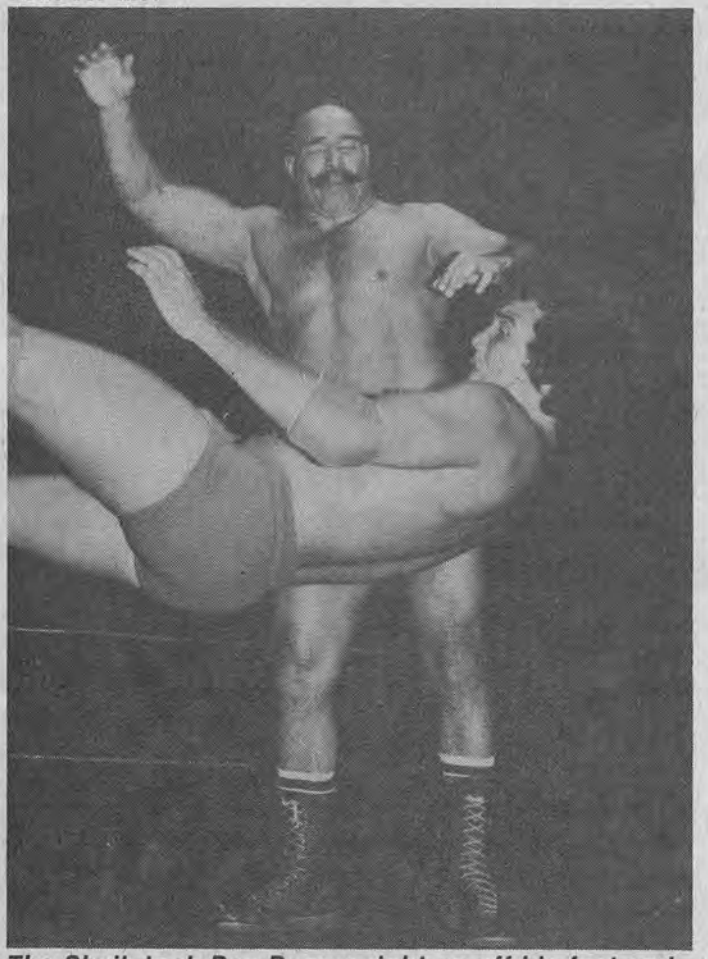
"I hope," Sheik said, "that American people who call USA, USA, and wave flag, have enough gas, and oil, to come to arena to see Iron Sheik defeat U.S. one more time. I think I will break his arm, his leg, whatever. Jerry Lawler is a bunch of big mouth. I hope some fool bring U.S. flag to arena so I

In some other action that the ring couldn't contain The Iron Sheik used the P.A. microphone cord to choke Danny Davis.

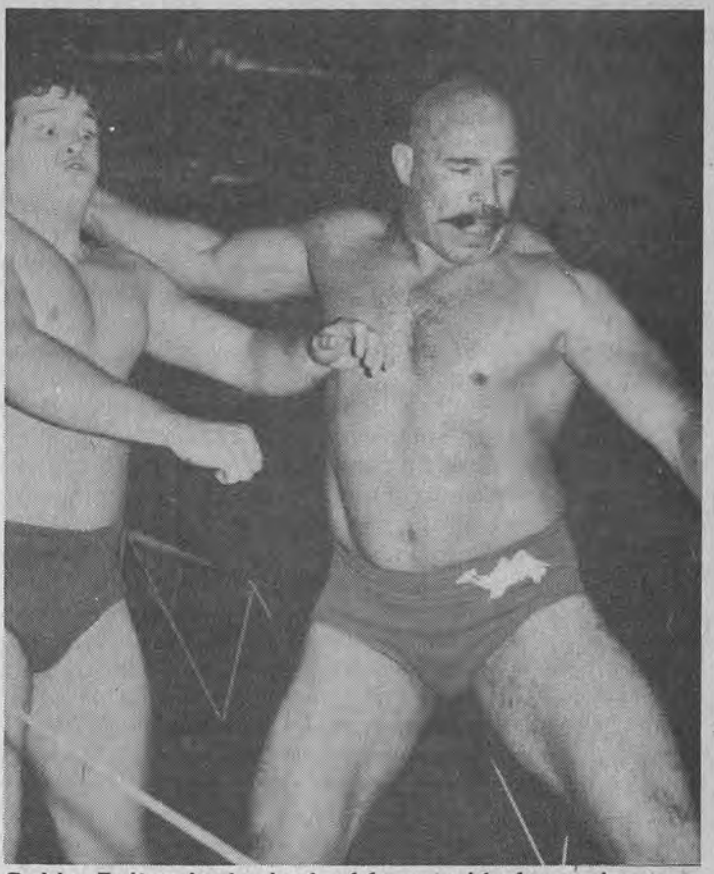
can take it and cover up Jerry Lawler's body as he is taken out of ring. I spit on your flag, I spit on your people, I swear to Ayatollah Khomeini I defeat Jerry Lawler and grind U.S. stinking face into dirt!"

Lawler had also verbally attacked Hart, an American, for being a turncoat in managing The Sheik. Hart, Lawler said, would "roll out the red carpet to the Russians if there was money to be made off communism." So Hart revealed his stand on the issue.

"It's not my fault," Hart whined, "that 52 Americans hung around a place it might not be safe! If they loved the U.S. so much why were they in Iran? You didn't catch Jimmy Hart there did you? I'm a businessman, not Yankee Doodle Dandy! If I see a prospect for the Family, I don't care if he's from the U.S., Iran, Pocarello, Idaho or Neptune. All I see is a bank balance. I'm sick of hearing patriotic crud from people driving Volkswagons and Toyotas listening to English Rock groups on Japanese stereos. You're all the same as I am, looking to make a buck or save one. If everybody's so patriotic, what's the matter with the Chrysler company? You tell me! The Iron Sheik's made more money for me than my General Motors stock, so I'll wear the Iranian flag for pajamas if it'll make him happy. I'll admit his political views are a little extreme, but why should I love the U.S.? What's it done for me?"



The Sheik took Roy Rogers right up off his feet and leveled him with a slashing judo chop.



Bobby Fulton had a look of fear on his face when The Iron Sheik sent him sailing head first toward a metal ringpost.

Emotions were at a fever pitch when the match came about. One of the largest crowds ever was in attendance, and it seemed every one of them had brought an American flag to wave in the Sheik's face. From the start of the match, cries of "USA, USA" literally shook the arena, and the match itself was one of the wildest, most violent confrontations even the veteran fans in attendance had ever seen. The Sheik pulled out all stops in his attempt to cripple Lawler, using his controversial loaded boot, a metal can opener, chairs, a leather strap and more, but the King gave everything right back to him in the same fashion.

The match settled nothing except to fan the fires of hatred, and through a series of several more matches between the two, there was violence but no conclusive decision. When the Iron Sheik used a knife, Lawler retaliated with a chain. Both men made liberal use of the Sheik's can opener, and literally everything not nailed down at ringside was engulfed into the brawl.

Now, after this violent feud, the Iron Sheik is taking matches in Georgia. Could it be that Hart has arranged for him to go there, only to bring him back at a future date in a sneak attack on Lawler? Or could it be that Hart is tired of defending his political views and has sent the Sheik to earn percentages for him from afar? Whatever the motive, whenever Jimmy Hart and the Iron Sheik are combined, the result can only be pandemonium, and chaos for all concerned.

SALVATORE BELLOMO
ITALIAN STAR THRILLING W.W.F. FANS

By Ed Loughman

The newest sensation in the rings of the W.W.F. is a good looking grappler from Italy who is named Salvatore Bellomo. Although he is a ten year veteran of the professional wrestling ring, this is his first time to test the waters in the ever turbulent W.W.F.

It looks as if he is destined to become a very popular star. Fans are pleased by his colorful ring style. He is a specialist in aerial moves such as dropkicks and flying headscissors. He is noted for holding an opponent's head, and then jumping up to nail his man flush on the jaw with a jarring dropkick. Where most wrestlers have to get a running start, or bounce off the ropes to gain the momentum to throw a dropkick, Salvatore can jump from a standing position to hit an opponent on the jaw, seemingly with ease.

Another ingredient of his unique style seems to be unorthodox cartwheels thrown at odd moments to offset an opponent's offensive moves such as monkey flips. Bellomo has a complex style that seems to baffle his opponents, yet at the same time delight the fans in attendance for his matches.

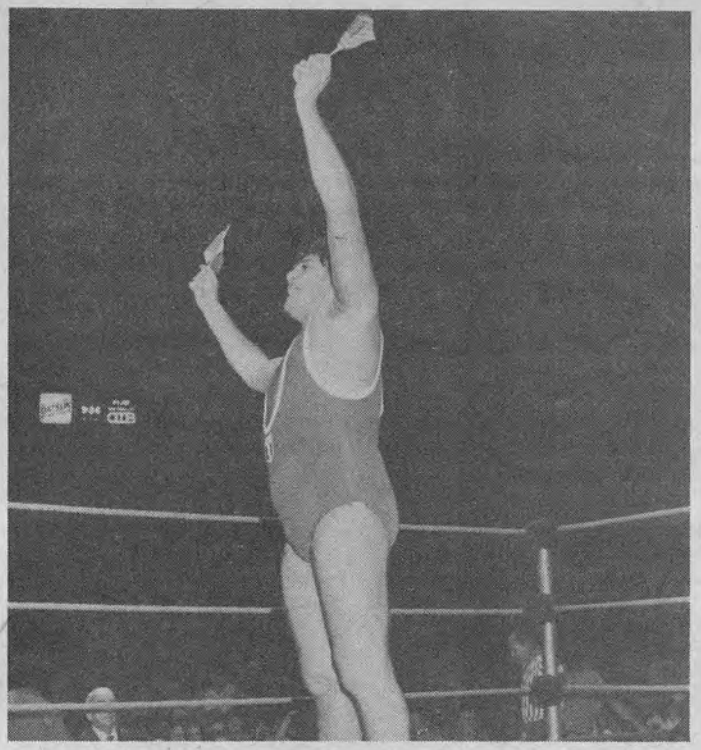
He has already been compared to the legendary Antonio Roccas, who pretty much dominated East Coast wrestling during the Fifties. There are of course similarities. Rocca also was a noted flying style grappler and was very popular with the eastern seaboard's large Italian population. Salvatore, like Antonio, tries to wrestle each bout within the framework of the rules, but has an awesome temper when fouled.

Two big supporters of the Bellomo are Vince McMahon and Pat Patterson, who do the commentary during the W.W.F. T.V. programs. Patterson, a top notch heavyweight wrestler of note himself, has pointed out that Salvatore is a wrestler's wrestler. When Bellomo is in the ring you often can see other wrestlers near the back of the arena spying on him, trying to figure out his complex and unique approach to the sport. Like Billy Robinson and Les Thornton, he has brought a spectacular razzle-dazzle European system of move and counter-move attack to our rings. He is indeed a finesse wrestler, with a very strong background in the fundamentals.

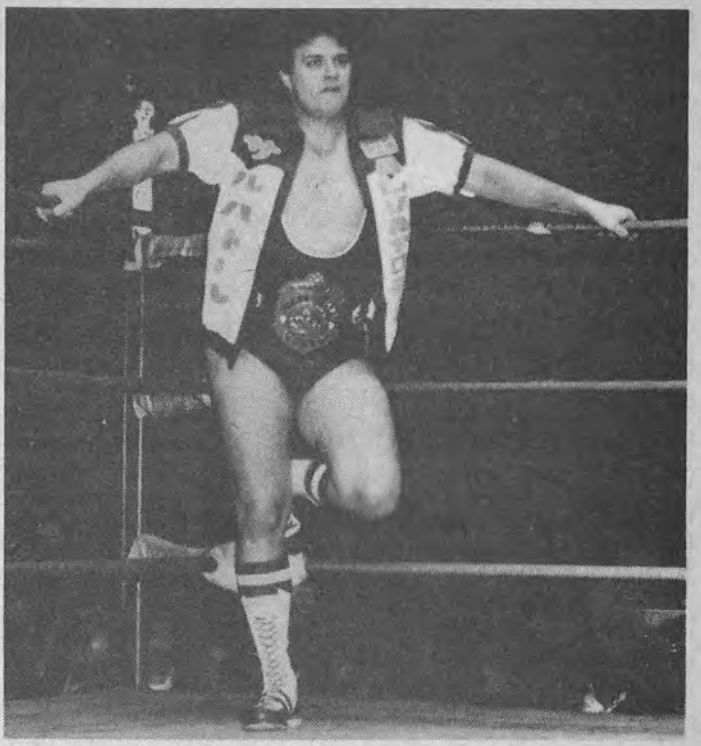
He of course is a well known figure in the rings of Germany, France, and England. Long time readers of this publication have seen his name reported in our European column on many occasions in the past.

He has done a bit of wrestling previously in North American rings. Cities such as Los Angeles, Portland, and Vancouver have already had the pleasure of hosting some of his finest matches. It was in British Columbia that Salvatore's star really started to shine. Not only did he capture that area's tag team championship with "Iron" Mike Sharpe, he also held the Pacific Coast Heavyweight Championship for awhile after upsetting former World's Champion Gene Kiniski for those honors.

At the present Bellomo is very happy to be competing in the rings of the W.W.F. Having recently made his debut in New York City's prestigious Madison Square Garden, he has completed one of his long range career goals. The next thing he would like to obtain is one of the championships that are recognized by the W.W.F. Champions beware because this is one new kid in town, to paraphrase a popular song, that is out to wrestle away somebody's thunder.



Salvatore Bellomo waved an American and Italian flag to the fans in Madison Square Garden after making his debut a successful one in the M.S.G. ring.



While competing on the West Coast Salvatore managed to battle his way up to championship status, he currently is seeking to attain a similar status in W.W.F. competition.

Bellomo had former N.W.A. Heavyweight Champion Gene Kiniski in a bad way with a headscissors hold during a 1978 Vancouver, British Columbia ring duel. Salvatore, a ten year veteran of the mat wars, has an outstanding won-loss record compiled against the stiffest of tough competition in the ring.

Imitation — or Deception?

By Sam Menacker

Several months ago I was somewhat dismayed when I looked through my morning newspaper, The Indianapolis Star, and noted a large ad stating that famed wrestler, Gorgeous George, was now an evangelist and would be preaching at a local church. In the ad was a story that the evangelist was the original Gorgeous George. A most untrue statement!! I called the officials of the church and explained that the imposter, who calls himself Gorgeous George, is in reality George Grant. Grant was never a top star in wrestling, but when he adopted the name Gorgeous George, he received many bookings. Many wrestling fans realized when they saw Grant that he was not the Gorgeous One. Very soon, Grant was not in demand and he turned to evangelism. I am told he is quite a good speaker and delivers good sermons. I compliment him for his religious work.

I was fortunate enough to manage Gorgeous George for a little over two years beginning in 1947. With television in its infancy at that time, George completely revolutionized professional wrestling. He became (and records at the present prove) the biggest drawing card in the business.

After George became the international favorite, there was a rash of wrestlers hoping to cash in on his fame and they started wearing the robes, the hair-dos, the perfumes and using the Gorgeous One's style. None could make it — they were cheap imitations.

We must not forget that Imitation Is The Sincerest Form of Flattery. But in the case of George Grant, it is not imitation but is duplicity and deception. He is trying to mislead the public by claiming he is the genuine article. Recently he spoke in Cincinnati where he claimed he wrestled in 1958. He had a valet named Thomas. When the real Gorgeous started wrestling, he had a valet named Thomas. Later valets were Jeffrey, and then Jackson. At the close of his career, his wife, Cherie, was his valet.

I can not help but feel resentment at someone who tries to cash in on the reputation of one of wrestling's all time great attractions, the inimitable, the great, Toast Of The Coast, Gorgeous George.

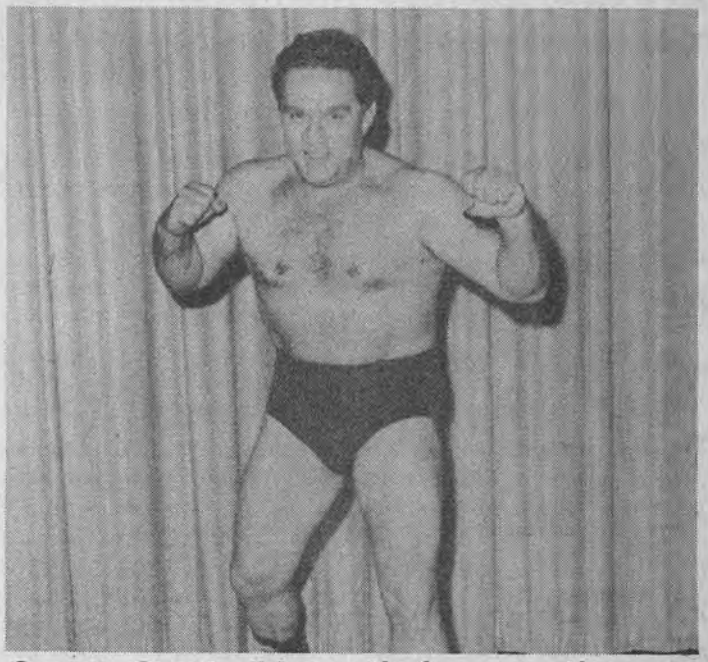
Gorgeous George died Dec. 26, 1963. His memory should be respected. He is not around to dispute the claims of George Grant.

When asked about the real Gorgeous George, all time great Buddy Rogers said, "There was only one!"

The original Gorgeous George is the man pictured here. His real name was George Wagner, an accomplished wrestler, who struck gold when he dyed his hair blond, hired a valet, and started throwing Gorgeous George pins out to his adoring public.

When professional wrestling returned to New York City's Madison Square after an absence of twelve years, on February 22nd, 1949, it was Gorgeous George who headlined that card against double tough Ernie Dusek. Gorgeous George was a star of television in its early days, and even people who didn't follow the sport were well aware of just who he was. He was even the subject of a motion picture entitled, "Alias The Champ."

Gorgeous George's valet Jeffries (Jacob Brown) perfumed stewardess Lois Crile of Pan American World Airlines before the pair left for a wrestling engagement in Johannesburg, South Africa.



George Grant, did wrestle for some time as Gorgeous George immitator, but most of his career he spend in preliminary matches and looked as he appears in this photo.

Has Don Carson really turned The Stomper loose?

Photos By Gene Gordon

By James C. Melby

Andre The Giant is generally considered to be "The Eighth Wonder Of The World," but one man who disputes that title is controversial manager-wrestler Don Carson. He feels that the man that he manages, The Mongolian Stomper, is the one who should be considered "The Eighth Wonder Of The World."

During a recent interview that I conducted with Mr. Carson, he went on to praise not only their working relationship with each other, their successes past and present, but also The Stomper's amazing physical conditioning.

Don explained that he finds it very easy in some ways to handle the affairs of The Stomper. He claims that the man is without fear, that he literally will accept any challenger, no matter who the opponent may be.

Carson communicates with his man in a strange language that seems to inspire his man to great heights while in action. The crafty manager boasts that often he doesn't have to utter a word, or give a hand signal, that the two have developed a high degree of mental communication with each other.

The record book of course bears fruit to the fact that everywhere the two men have ventured they have ended up on top. Regional championships in areas such as the Gulf Coast, Tennessee, and Georgia have been won by the duo. I might add that in each of these places not only did The Stomper gain coveted title belts and main event status, he also left behind a trail of battered, and often hospitalized ring foes. The man has a reputation as a real ring crippler. Often times he seems to get a little out of control, and even Carson at times has trouble pulling him off of his opponents, once he has already defeated them.

Besides having one of the smartest and most eloquent men in professinal wrestling representing him, The Stomper owes much of his great success to his amazing physical conditioning. Don Carson is of the opinion that his man could have been a top athlete in any sport that he may have chosen to have competed in, and I readily agree with him.

Not too long ago he completed a twenty six mile marathon run in Dallas, Texas. And seeing him work out in a gym is really a sight to behold. He can do fifty eight pushups in a mere thirty seconds. Try it some time, I sure can't match that feat. He also trains by doing pushups with up to three hundred pounds placed on his back. Other exercises such as situps, The Stomper seemingly can do for as long as you request him to do.

He has tremendous strength, especially upper body. Up and coming wrestler Ron Cheatham told me of working out with The Stomper, and he was impressed. Ron says that The Stomper doesn't even find a challenge in bench pressing anymore, now he does things with ninety pound dumbells to develop his wrists and forearms. It is small wonder that he nearly decapitates his hapless ring rivals when he nails them with a punch or a judo chop. Cheatham has a healthy respect for The Stomper's physical prowess, and feels that if he can accomplish the workouts prescribed for him in the gym by this man, he can stand up to anything an opponent might try on him in the ring.

Don't get the impression though that he is good favor with the majority of the wrestling fraternity, because he certainly isn't! Dick Slater is one man who would love to destroy not only The Stomper, but Don Carson as well. Recently Slater found himself being knocked out in San Antonio and losing the coveted Southwest Heavyweight Championship belt to The Stomper. It has been alleged that the duo made use of a mysterious black glove to ac-

The Mongolian Stomper and manager Don Carson stage a victory celebration after scoring yet another major ring victory. Every area that the two have ventured to have found the duo winning regional championships, maintaining main event status, and putting other wrestlers out on the injured list.

complish that feat. Slater swears that he has never been hit that hard, that it had to have been a foreign object to put out his lights like that.

Another rough and tumble wrestler gunning for their hides is Bob Sweetan. It seems "Mr. Piledriver" is tired of having Carson interrupt him during his interview time on the Southwest Championship Wrestling T.V. program. After a shoving and shouting match during one interview, Sweetan gained a sense of satisfaction by ripping Carson's tuxedo literally off of him when the dispute spread to the ring. The Stomper made Sweetan pay dearly for that attack though, by bloodying him up with the notorious black glove. In fact it was Slater who finally came to his aid, and saved him from even further punishment at the hands of The Stomper and Carson. Since this action was all unscheduled officials were unable to do anything about what transpired. Texas wrestling fans like their ring action wild and wooly, but this incident was a bit too much, even by Lone Star State grappling fans' standards.

Don Carson doesn't mind his critics. In fact he seems to get a charge out of being hated so much by the majority of the wrestling fans. He told me he is the happiest when the people sitting up in the farthest away from the ring seats in an arena are standing on their feet, shouting for his scalp. Don understands that people come out in droves in hopes of seeing him and his man get defeated, and delights in sending them home disappointed time after time.

Carson loves to point out that no one can say that his predictions don't come true though. He stated, "I know the fans don't care for me, The Mongolian Stomper, or our methods of winning wrestling matches. One thing is for sure though, no one can ever say that we let them down. If I say The Stomper is going to beat someone, he does. If I say we are going to win a title, we do. You can go to the bank on what I predict my man is going to do, because it will come to pass!"

The fact remains that no one really has ever beaten The Stomper soundly. He has lost a staggering amount of matches because he was disqualified for his unruly ring tactics though. The real question is what would happen if Don Carson really turned The Mongolian Stomper loose? Supposedly what he has shown so far is just part of his true capabilities. I'm not so sure I would like to see the end reslt of The Stomper's aftermath, whithout having any restraints.

Don Carson loves to send the fans home disappointed that pay to see The Stomper get beat. That is something that very rarely happens!

Wendi Richter — Texas Cowgirl

Photos By Linda Churchill

By Kate Mast

We're in Salem, Oregon, to see a mixed tag match between Princess Victoria and Tommy Rogers against Playboy Buddy Rose and Texas Cowgirl Wendi Richter.

Richter enters the ring wearing her fringed leather vest and glaring out from under the brim of her cowboy hat.

During the introductions, she strides around the ring, stopping occasionally to do muscle poses. When she doesn't get the cheers, she responds with "Shut up, you don't know nothing!" More catcalls from the fans earn a rude arm gesture.

Now she turns her attention to the referee, ordering him to "check her (Victoria's) knee pads! Check her boots! Check her again!" When it's her turn she refuses to let the referee touch her, calling him "Fresh!"

Wendi prepares to start the match and turns to find herself facing Tommy Rogers, a very well build grappler about her own height of 5'10". She dismisses him with a flick of her wrist, hollering "Get him out of here! I don't wrestle no midgets!" (Earlier on a TV interview she said she likes men she can "look up to.")

Tommy just looks disgusted as he climbs out thru the ropes and his partner, Princess Victoria enters the ring. The bell rings and Richter attacks with kicks and forearm smashes. Caught in a headlock, she suplexes the Princess, then throws her into the ropes and when Victoria comes bouncing back, Wendi grabs her with both hands by the throat and lifts her up off the mat, holding her suspended by the choke hold in mid air! At the referee's count, she drops her nearly strangled opponent and goes for the pin with a splash!

Over the two weeks that Ms. Richter was in our area, we watched her terrorize referees, opponents and fans alike, with her rough and tumble non-stop action and her belligerent non-stop bluster. Wendi always has something to say, whether it's expressing concern over the welfare of an opponent, as when she threw Sabrina thru the ropes and onto the concrete floor and then leaned out and inquired at the top of her lungs "How'd that feel, witch?" or comforting her partner after a loss with her fists clenched, screaming "What did you do THAT for?"

Wendi's volatile temper always means trouble and lots of pain for her opponents, but occasionally it works against her as she's been known to lose control and attack the referee. Usually, it only amounts to a shove, for which she is warned off. But she barely made it out of the ring in one piece when she, outraged because the referee wouldn't listen to her about her tights being pulled, knocked him down and depantsed him in front of a packed arena! She quickly, and wisely, beat feet to the dressing room, as he was Very upset!

At 5'10" tall, Richter is a big woman, with lots of muscle and power, but not in anyway masculine. Her 160 pounds are stacked in all the right places. She's actually a beautiful girl with lightly frosted hair, a nice even tan, hour glass figure, pretty face, and gorgeous eyes.

When you meet Wendi outside the arena, she's wearing a wide, ultrabrite smile and a personality that's full of enthusiasm, fun, sunshine and good-ole-girl Texas friendliness. Her easy laugh and "make yourself at home" manner made it a real pleasure to meet and interview Wendi.

Wendi Richter

But in the ring, the only way to describe her expression is mean! That look could make a rattlesnake slither back under his rock!

It seems that whether it's fighting or being friendly, Richter puts her Texas all into whatever she's doing.

KL: Now, I'm going to go clear across the room to ask this question —

WR: Uh oh!

KL: Here you are, a nice friendly person, but the minute you walk in the ring, you're getting on the referee, you're yelling at the people, terrorizing your opponent, and being generally belligerent, how do you get psyched like that?

WR: Well, that's my job. That's how I make my living. When I get out there, I ain't messing around! I'm going out there for business and I'm going to take care of business!

KL: Before the match, in the dressing room, how do you psych up?

WR: I'm thinking about my match and about that individual, especially if I've wrestled her before. It could be a circus right beside me and I won't even hear it, it wouldn't even interest me. I'm just interested in what's going to happen in the ring. I get warmed up so my body's ready for it and I'm getting psyched up. So I'm ready for it mentally and physically.

KL: Do you try to get steamed up or mad?

WR: No, that's one thing I try not to do out there because I get mad easy enough. I don't try to get myself mad. I try to keep a level head out there when I'm dealing with them, but sometimes the referees and the people, you know, I get a little T'd off at them.

KL: Like the other night when the fans were yelling "Wendi is a hussy!"?

WR: Yeah! I didn't like that, now! And my partner, (that evening it was "Playboy" Buddy Rose) they were calling him the Pillsbury Doughboy!

Wendi Richter was born September 9, 1960 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, but was raised in Dallas, and still considers Texas home. She has one brother who is going to school to be an eye doctor. She is single and "21 and holding!"

KL: Did you go to the pro matches as a kid?

WR: I guess when I turned around 12 or 13 I started going to the matches and all. The first time I went to them I said "That's what I want to do!" I wanted to jump in there and help the first time I ever went!

KL: Who did you see?

WR: Let's see, who was it? I think it was Fabulous Moolah and Vivian St. John, some big tall red headed girl.

KL: How far did you go in school?

WR: I went to business school to be a computer operator and I was daydreaming about wrestling, I knew if I didn't get into it, I'd always wonder and I'm just glad I did! I love it!

KL: Did you finish the computer schooling and did you ever work at it?

WR: Yes, I finished, but I went straight from school to Moolah's to train.

KL: Did you participate in high school sports?

WR: Yeah, I was in volleyball, on the track team, but I was more into my horses and all. I guess that's why I was only in two different sports because I couldn't wait to get back to the barn. At one time, I had seven horses, a milk cow, chickens, everything!

KL: What events in track did you do?

WR: I ran the mile and threw discus.

KL: How did you break in to pro wrestling?

WR: Well, I knew before I went there that it required a lot of stamina an strength and all, so I was running and lifting weights, which I still do now. And I was in pretty good shape when I went there, and I kind of caught on cause I just wanted to do it. If you have a drive, you can learn fast.

KL: What did your family think when you decided to go pro?

WR: Well, I didn't even tell my dad because I knew he wanted me to do something else, he wanted me to go to college. But my mother was all for it, my mom has always been behind me and she says if she was young enough she'd do it too! She likes to travel.

KL: How does your dad feel about it now?

WR: Well, he's accepted it because he has no choice.

KL: Does he come to your matches?

WR: I'm scared to tell him. I've been in my home town twice and haven't told him. Maybe on T.V., I don't know. I was scared he'd come and try to jerk me out of the ring!

KL: Moolah trained you and helped you, anyone else?

WR: Joyce here. She more or less polished me off. I guess she had a lot of people to choose from for her partner, but maybe she saw something in me and figured that she could make me as good a partner as her last one or better.

How long have you been wrestling? Have you been tagging the whole time?

WR: Three years. Been tagging almost two years, but she (Joyce) was training with me before we became tag team partners, I guess more or less, testing.

KL: What about your training, the first day?

WR: The next morning I just had to pull myself by the hair to get up out of bed! Everything was sore! Mat burns and my neck, everything, arms, legs! The first thing you had to learn how to do is fall on the mat properly. When you first go to train, you work out twice a day and, I'd say, about two hours each time. So it's pretty thorough and you don't get sent on the road till you're ready because there's no use asking to get hurt!

KL: Did they use the "Beat the hell out of you" training style?

WR: Well, you've got to cause, well, that's how it is out there in that ring. It ain't love pats out there! That's blood!

KL: Tell us about your first match.

WR: My first match was in Knoxville, Tennessee, and it was a ten girl Battle Royal. I think I was thrown out fourth or fifth, so it wasn't all that bad. But I was really scared and if I could have known then what I know now, they couldn't have thrown me out at all!

KL: What about your first singles match?

WR: Let me see, it was against Vicki

World's Tag Team Champions Wendi Richter and Joyce Grable argue a point with referee Sandy Barr in between falls of a match.

Richter used this over the shoulder backbreaker to squeeze out a submission from Sabrina.

Williams I believe. She was about number one in the standings. She beat me. I think we went about twelve minutes or something like that. It's so hard to talk about your first matches because I can barely remember it. Right after the match I could barely remember it because I was so upset and nervous. That's one of the main things you have to do in a match is keep your cool. You've got to use your head out there because they're using theirs!

KL: How did you feel afterwards?

WR: I wanted to go back to training and learn more. It gave me more incentive!

KL: What areas have you wrestled in?

WR: I've been all over the states, Japan, Guam, all over Puerto Rico, and the other islands. The past four months I've been all over the states, I mean from Florida up to here (the Pacific Northwest), been up in Canada, just everywhere!

KL: How long are you on the road tours?

WR: Well, this tour here's going on four months, I haven't been home. It all depends, sometimes a couple weeks, sometimes I just go out for a shot or two, fly somewhere and come right back. Sometimes months!

KL: What's the life of a wrestler like?

WR: It's glamorous and routine. But you've got to take the good with the bad. I love competition, like when I had horses, I ran barrels, poles, did goat tying, I've always been for competition, and in school. And this is competition, I'm getting a lot of competition. But, I guess that the bad thing about it, I was just telling Joyce, is my heart. My heart gets broken! I've got a couple boyfriends scattered around and you miss them and it might be a long time before you see them again. I think that's the hardest part, just being way from your family and loved ones and all, but that's part of the sacrifices.

KL: What advice would you give to girls who wanted to be professional wrestlers?

WR: Well, I think I'd tell them they'd have to be at least 18. And they should finish school, because you need an education. Even in wrestling you need an education, you need to know how to read. They should be mature if they are young and be ready to travel. That's the main thing. That's the hardest thing on you, is traveling, traveling, traveling. And Be tough, you've got to be tough!

KL: Do you like singles or tags better?

WR: I like tag a lot better because you always got your partner there if you get in trouble. Plus I hate traveling alone on the road. If its a single match I'm by myself all the time. If it's a tag team match at least we can speak to each other. No way I'd speak to the other girl, we'd be fighting in AND out of the ring!

Wendi gave one fan a dirty look who was sitting at ringside and heckling her.

KL: Favorite partner?

WR: If I don't say her (Joyce) she'll twist my arm when we get back in the dressing room! She may not let me tag out?

KL: What are some of your favorite maneuvers or holds?

WR: Well, I like a lot of different submission holds. When I was over in Japan I learned the Japanese Back Breaker, there isn't a way they can get out of that! I like doing the bulldog, where I get them in a headlock, jump up and come down. Let's see, what are some other things I like to do? I like using suplexes. Other than that, just whatever comes to me out there. It really depends on the girl. If I've never wrestled her before, I just kind of feel her out to see her weaknesses and all. Most of the time it depends on the person, everyone's different out there.

KL: Who's been your toughest opponent so far?

WR: I have wrestled against Moolah before. I'd have to say she was, because she's got all kinds of tricks up her sleeves!

KL: Injuries?

WR: I got my thumb dislocated, had surgery on it. I've had my ribs bruised, my nose busted, my fingers jammed. I don't know what happened to my knee one time, the doctors said it was badly bruised, but my toes were swollen up. From my knee to my toes, everything was swollen. I couldn't even wear my cowboy boot. I had to put ice on it and try to smash that wrestling boot on, just to get it on!

KL: Titles held?

WR: Only title I've ever held is the Championship (Women's World Tag Belts) with Joyce and we've held that for about two years.

KL: Who did you take it from?

WR: Judy Martin and Lelani Kai.

KL: What is your training schedule like?

WR: I train four times a week. I jog, four or five times a week, I jog a couple miles. I really don't know exactly, cause like the motel I'm staying at now, I just jog down the street and come back, but at least a couple miles. I do three sets, twelve repetitions of everything, every exercise. I use free weights and I add more pounds on it. Like the first set might be kind of light to get warmed up, then I add more pounds. There's no way a woman can get as big as a man, but I want to go as far as I can, but still be feminine.

KL: What do you consider to be your best assets as a wrestler?

WR: I think it's mainly got to be using my head. What knowledge I have and everything, which involves holds and counters, plus strength. I know I've got a lot of strength on my side. Growing up, man, I baled hay, carried grain sacks, wrestled horses. Moolah and Joyce are the best trainers, so I had the best training that is available to any girl considering wrestling. It has to be my head, and strength and DRIVE!

KL: What is your ring philosophy?

WR: When it gets right down to it, whatever it takes to win, that's what I'm going to do!

KL: How do you feel about wrestling in Battle Royals and mixed tags with the men?

WR: Let me think about that! I've been in mixed tags, I've never been in a Battle Royal against them. I like mixed tags. Just like anything else, it's different, no telling what may pop up!

KL: Can a woman wrestle a man, one on one?

WR: Well, I think if it was two girls against one man, yeah. The odds would be even because a man's supposed to be 40% stronger, but as far as one one one — maybe if the weight was kind of the same. There's a lot of guys in the business who I'm about their size. But I wouldn't go up against Hulk Hogan!

KL: How about Hacksaw Sawyer?

WR: Yeah! I think I could hold my own and take Hacky! Someone that's close to my size, it'd be a fight to the finish! But someone who's twice as big as me, I wouldn't even sign, I'm not going to go out there and get hurt! If I think I have a good chance, but if it's a big man, maybe two girls against one.

KL: What did you think of the Jerry Lawler vs. Andy Kauffman match?

WR: I'd like to break his neck myself! I didn't see it, but I've heard Kauffman make interviews on different talk shows and how he'd challenge women. Well, I'm glad a man did fix him. The women he does take on don't know what they're doing. He won't take on a woman that knows what she's doing. I'm sure I could take him on!

KL: Do you get any hassle from the men wrestlers about being in a man's profession?

WR: No, if they say something — (very explicite arm gesture). Some of them mumble, but you just pay no attention.

KL: How do you feel about the fans?

WR: If they like me, they like me and if they don't, they can kiss my grits!

KL: Do you ever have trouble with the fans?

WR: No, when I'm away from the matches, unless they've been to the matches, no one knows.

KL: How about at the arenas?

WR: Well, I think they're afraid to, because if they swing or if they hit me, shoot! That's all she wrote! In Japan I had a problem with the fans — men! They'd come and attack me. You've just got to fight them off, even though there are seconds around the ring. Here the police walk you back to the dressing room, some places they don't, but you've always got protection, because there's some people that are, you know, kind of crazy! Yeah, someplaces I have had trouble, I guess the people there thought I was unfair, but that's part of being a wrestler.

KL: Men?

WR: I LIKE MEN!! (with a wide grin and a twinkle in her eye.) Ain't nothing funny about me! I don't go announcing or have on my shirt "I am a wrestler" or nothing. I think most of the people I come in contact with, they just take me for how I am. I'm not really in a place long enough to get to know any fans, you know. There's some people that have been really nice to me and I look forward to seeing them again. I have a couple of boyfriends scattered around that I miss and like seeing them.

KL: One in every port?

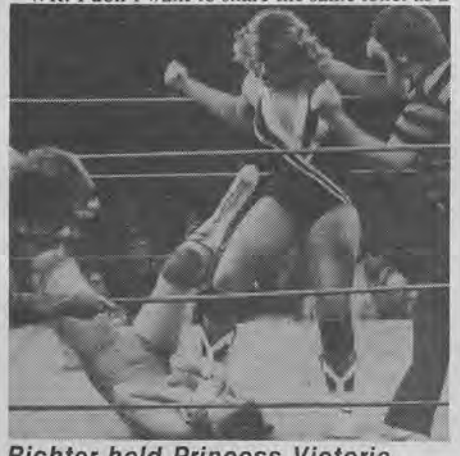
WR: No, not that many! But I've got a few scattered around.

KL: Do you date men wrestlers?

WR: Well, I want to get to know someone, and it's hard when you're only there for a certain amount of time. But there are some people that I see pretty often and, yeah, if I know them and like them. Wow, some of them are stuck up, and some of them are nice, it just depends on the person.

KL: Are you a feminist? How do you feel about the ERA?

WR: I don't want to share the same toilet as a



Richter held Princess Victoria down on the mat by standing on her throat, and meanwhile struck up a muscle pose.

The Dallas Cowgirl can wrestle scientifically when she wants to, here she hammerlocks Princess Victoria.

man and I like a man to open the door. I'm not for it. I do think women should get equal pay if they can do the same job, I'm strong for that! But as far as everything I believe in a lady being a lady. I like a man to open the door for me, pay for my food if we go out to eat and stuff like that. I like being a lady!

KL: What do you do for relaxation?

WR: I like music. I like to aerobic dance and working out. Like, when I get up in the morning, I usually do my jogging, go to the gym, come back and eat, listen to music. I have an exercise bike, well, I don't have it when I'm on the road.

KL: Do you still have horses?

WR: Yeah, they're in Texas though, when I'm home I've got them. But on the road, I miss them. I like to shop. I do a lot of shopping, I like shopping for hours. Sometimes I don't buy anything, it all depends. I might go thru a whole mall and just get one shirt.

KL: Do you sightsee? Have you been to see the volcano?

WR: No, I want to go there though before I leave. I do a lot of sight seeing.

KL: Music?

WR: I like country. I think country's my favorite. Yeah! Hank Williams Jr.!

KL: Movies?

WR: I don't like scary movies or movies about the devil, because I believe in God and they scare me!

KL: Have you seen "All The Marbles"? Do you feel they treated women's wrestling fairly?

WR: Yeah, I did. But I don't think you've got to sleep with the promoter in order to get a championship match. I know I didn't! I got into that last match! I wanted to get in and help!

KL: What do you think of mud wrestling?

WR: Oh, that's a disgrace! I went to mud wrestling in Hawaii, well, I didn't go to mud wrestling, I went to a night club and they had it there. I was so glad no one knew who I was! I was ashamed! They made a mockery out of wrestling. They had a referee with a striped shirt on and gave the rules and everything and had an announcer. It just made me sick for people to think that that was associated with wrestling. There's no way I could ever resort to mud wrestling, no way!

KL: Where do you like to go for vacations?

WR: Hawaii! That's paradise! Next to Texas now! I love the beaches, the sun. Some of my friends call me "Sunshine" because I'm always out in the sun.

KL: Food?

WR: I like anything! That's my problem! I love Chinese food, Mexican food, steaks, fish. I think I like fish better than anything, but I'm not hard to please when it comes to food.

KL: Do you have trouble controlling your weight?

WR: No, I usually stay anywhere from 160, 165. But my stomach pokes out when I'm 165, so I try to keep it at 160.

KL: Television?

WR: I don't watch that much television. I like "The Young and the Restless" though and "General Hospital." Those two and "Dallas," "Saturday Night Live" and "Benny Hill."

KL: Do you like the night life or are you a homebody?

WR: Hmm. When I'm at home, I'm at home, you know. Like when I'm in Texas I like to stay home and around the house. But when I'm out on the road, I guess because it is kind of lonely, I like going out and doing something, rather than sitting in a hotel room. That's boring!

KL: What are your personal goals? Marriage? Children?

WR: I want to get married, but I'm going to have to wait on those kids for a while, because I'm going to have to see if our marriage is going to work. I've never been married, but when I do get married I want it to stick. But I'd like to have, maybe two kids at the most. If I get married, I think I'm just going to have to hang up my boots, because there's no way I could be gone all the time and still expect him to be at home watching the kids or something. There's only so much someone can take! But that's why I'm not even thinking about getting married now, maybe when I'm 30, cause I'm 21 now and that's just in the future, all this is in the future. Not right now cause I still want to travel and see everything, and I just haven't met the right person.

KL: What are your professional goals?

WR: Oh! I want to have that World Championship Belt around my waist! That's right! It's been about a year since I wrestled her (Moolah) and I've really improved, I know. But I'm going back to Japan in about a month for another two months and when I get back from there, I know I'll be in good shape and I'd like to taker her on then! But I don't want to do it until I feel like I can win. That's what I want though!

Wendi Richter is a co-holder of the Women's World Tag Team Championship. She's a top contender for the Women's World Belt. She's warm as sunshine outside the arena, while in the ring she's tough as nails. She's got genuine talent and skill in her chosen profession, yet uses a rough and rowdy ringstyle that ignores the rulebook. She's fast, she's tough, she's strong and she's determined!

Whether you agree with her tactics or not, don't miss a chance to see Wendi Richter wrestle. She always serves up plenty of good hot action, Texas Cowgirl style!

A chop from Wendi sent Victoria reeling to the mat. She says she will do anything to win a match.

Introducing

Dr. Death Steve Williams

Photos By Ed Loughman **By James C. Melby**

One man who is destined to play a predominant role in the future ratings of professional wrestling's heavyweights is a young man by the name of Steve Williams. He comes to the grappling game with an outstanding athletic background.

Steve was a superior amateur wrestler, and in fact that is where he first obtained the nickname of "Dr. Death." He could have been very well called "Sudden Death," as it didn't take him long to finish off his hapless adversaries.

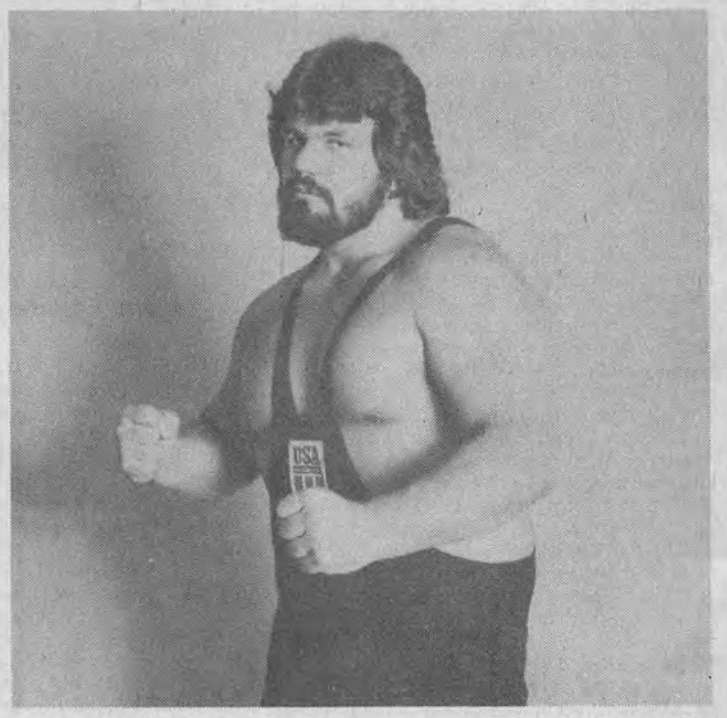
He is also an outstanding football player. As we go to press with this article he is completing his final year of playing guard for Oklahoma University.

Steve made his pro wrestling debut last summer while on vacation from school. Under the new regulations he was allowed to return to college and still play football, as he was competing in a completely different professional sport, and still retained his eligibility.

I'm quite happy to report that Williams' pro debut was a winning one. His first match was held in Shreveport, Louisiana, and taped by the Mid South Wrestling Association, to be shown on their national television network. He looked mighty impressive in handing The Turk a solid defeat with an Oklahoma Stampede, the flying bodyslam made famous by Cowboy Bill Watts. Since that time he has defeated other veterans such as Billy Starr, Mike Bond, Jeff Sword, and even has gained a few verdicts over former North American Heavyweight Champion Bob Roop. Upsets seem to be the name of the game when Steve Williams becomes involved.

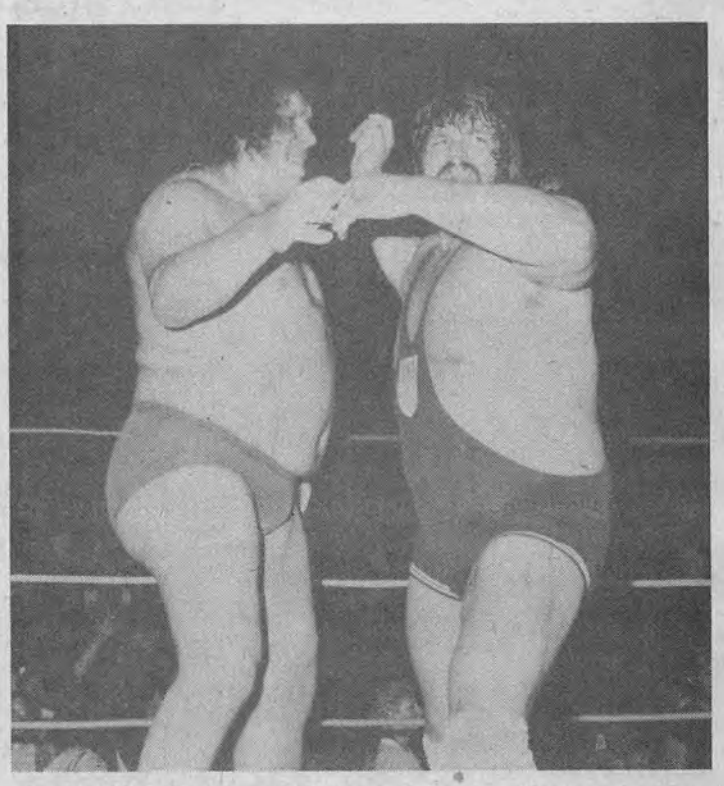
There is no secret that he hopes to follow in the footsteps of other greats who wrestled in Oklahoma amateur programs such as Watts, LeRoy McGuirk, Danny Hodge, Dale Lewis, Wahoo McDaniel, and Jack & Jerry Brisco. If early matches are any indication of the future, Steve's name will someday be considered on the same level as the other outstanding wrestlers previously mentioned.

He certainly has the size and power that will carry him to the top, all that is missing is experience. As soon as Steve finishes college, he intends to return to the ring wars and add that ingredient.

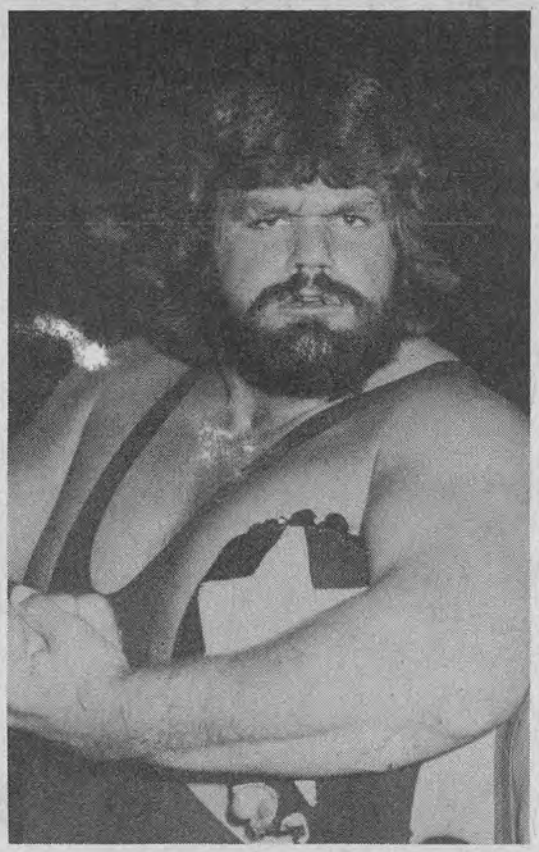


Steve Williams obtained the nickname of "Dr. Death" for his prowess as an amateur wrestler.

Williams showed "Big" John Studd a sample of his awesome might by wrapping him in a crushing bearhug.

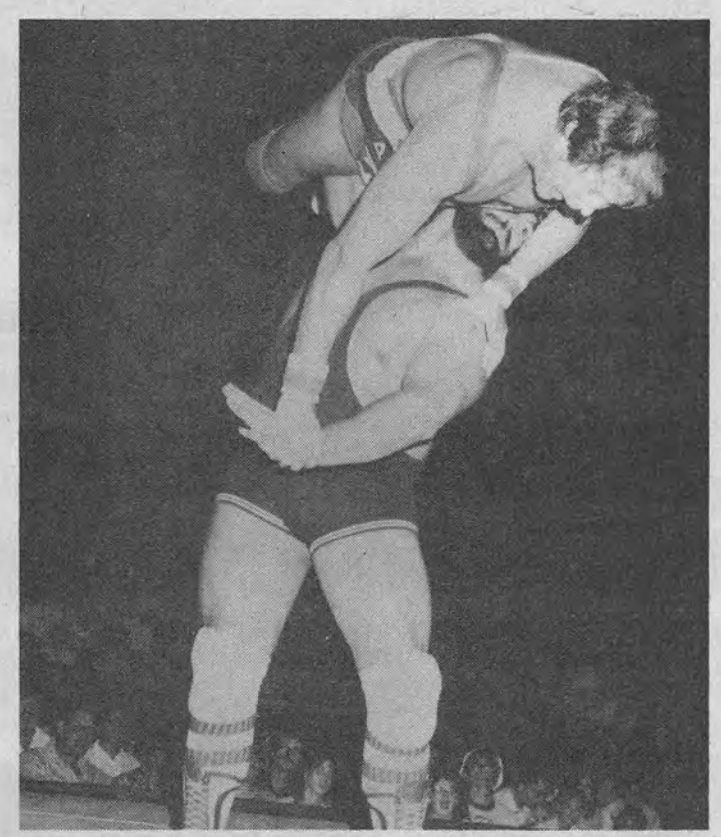


Andre The Giant and Steve celebrate after capturing an Oklahoma tag team match together.

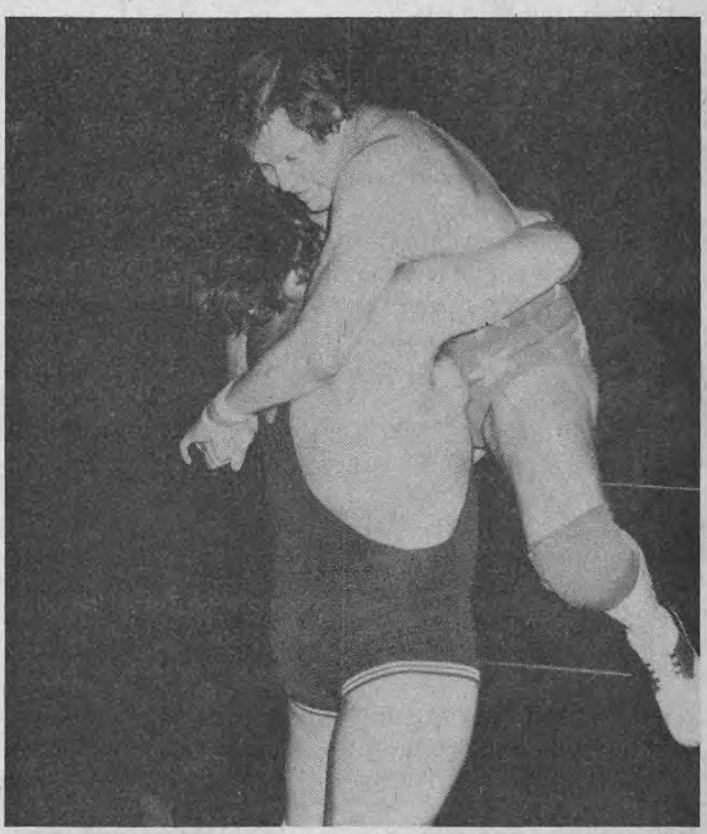


A real closeup of "Dr. Death" applying a vice-like side headlock on The Super Destroyer.

Bob Roop was still holding onto a wristlock when Steve picked him with one arm, and sent him flying to the canvas with a bodyslam.



Roop is tossed high in the air once more, this time before feeling a jarring atomic drop from Steve.



Steve Williams' victory over veteran Bob Roop, at one time an outstanding amateur himself, is a sign of things to come in the future for "Dr. Death."

The Last Bout of Chief Peter Maivia

By Kathy Dowd

On Sunday June 13, 1982 in Honolulu, Hawaii, professional wrestling lost one of the sports great athletes to the dreadful disease of cancer. High Chief Fanene Leifi Pita Maivia, better known to wrestling followers as Peter Maivia, succumbed after a lengthy fight against the horrible disease.

Peter Maivia was born in Western Somoa and as a youngster was raised in the country of New Zealand. It was in New Zealand where the High Chief began his wrestling career by meeting and defeating many opponents including some of the world's greatest Sumo wrestlers.

From there he went to England where a movie producer saw him wrestling and signed him to a contract to appear in the movie, "You Only Live Twice," which is a James Bond movie starring actor Sean Connery. In the movie, Maivia was in a fight scene with Connery.

After completing the filming of the movie, Mr. Maivia continued wrestling all over Europe, the Far East and soon ventured into the mainland of the United States. Wherever he went, Peter was loved by all the fans as his style of wrestling was very interesting and colorful to watch. Entering the ring, the High Chief was attired in his native land costume of headdress, a lei of flowers placed around his neck, and carried with him a spear. They all represented his heritage in some manner.

One area of the U.S. that Maivia really gained the fame in was the A.W.A. There he tangled with several very tough opponents including King Kong Mosca and the unpopular Heenan family. Mosca didn't gain any popularity contests with the fans when the big bully attacked the Samoan favorite with a musical instrument that was presented to Maivia by a young fan. Peter promised the fans that he would seek revenge and he did just that. When the smoke cleared, King Kong Mosca was looking at Maivia with a different tune.

After the midwest, Peter went west and wrestled on the west coast for awhile and then headed to the Islands of Hawaii. After wrestling in the colorfully warm state for awhile, Peter Maivia soon made history. He became the first Polynesian promoter of professional wrestling on the Islands. Stars which appeared for Maivia included Billy Whitewolf, Rocky Johnson, Siva Afi, Roy Star, Salvatore Bellomo, Victor Rivera, Bob Backlund, Don Muraco and many others.

Not only did Peter Maivia promote in Hawaii but also did some wrestling shows in American and Western Somoa, Tonga, and other South Pacific islands.

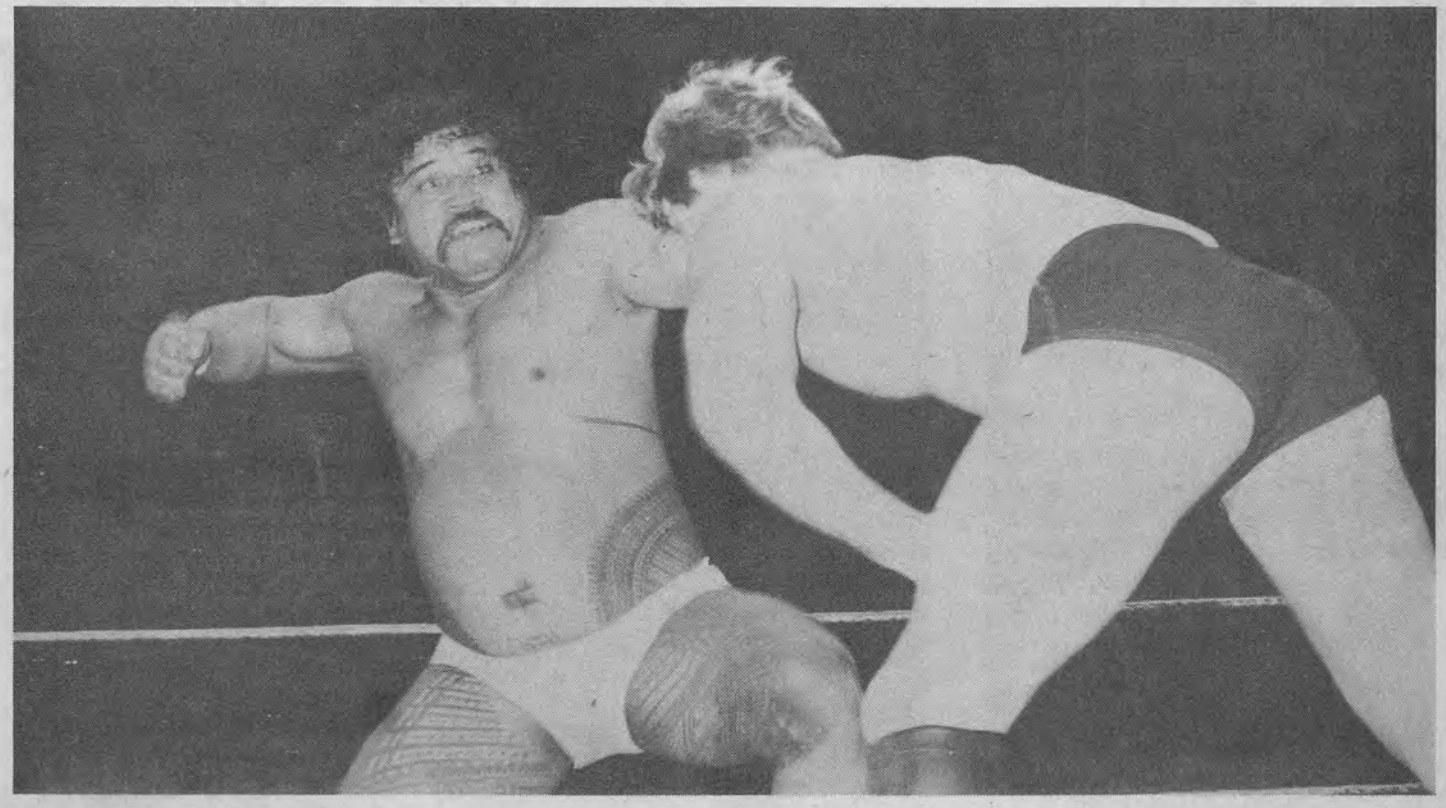
High Chief Peter Maivia is survived by his wife Ofelia Fuataga; daughter, Mrs. Matania Feagaimaleata Johnson of Florida; grandson, Tuifeai Dwayne Johnson of Florida; mother, Mrs. Peka Papali of Auckland, New Zealand; and a cousin, Papali itele Siva Afi, also a professional wrestler, better known just as Siva Afi.

He will be deeply missed by everyone who knew or saw him throughout his forty-five years of life.

This writer would like to thank Lord James Blears of the Pacific Wrestling Federation for his help and cooperation in obtaining the information for this article.

This is the way Chief Peter Maivia looked for his role in the motion picture "You Only Live Twice," which was a James Bond adventure film.

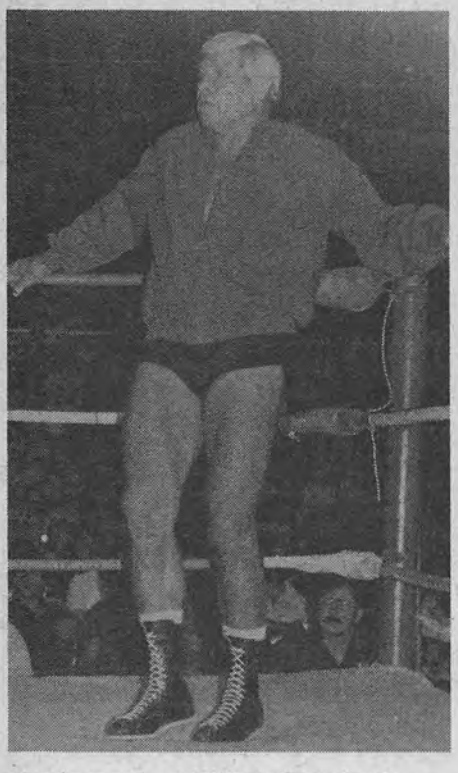
Maivia at one point in his career started wrestling in quite a roughouse style, here he is seen ripping away at Pat Patterson's mouth.



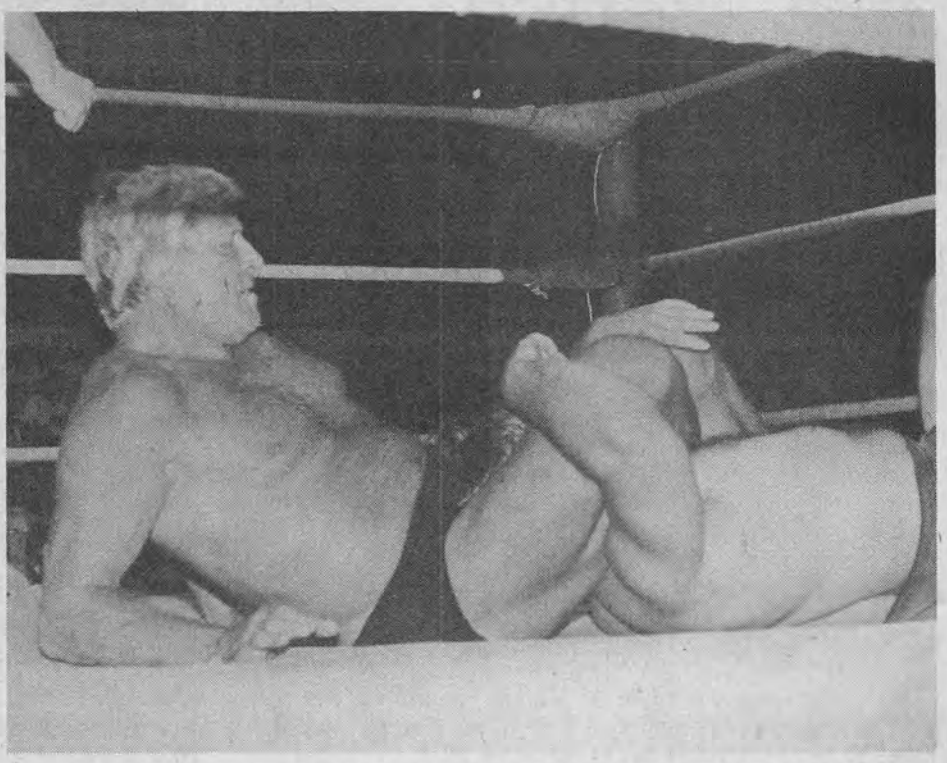
The W.W.F. was one area where Maivia proved to be a huge gate attraction. Although fans didn't care for him as much when he adopted an anything goest type of style, bouts against the likes of Bob Backlund proved to be box office bonanzas.

Spotlight on Peoria's Wrestling

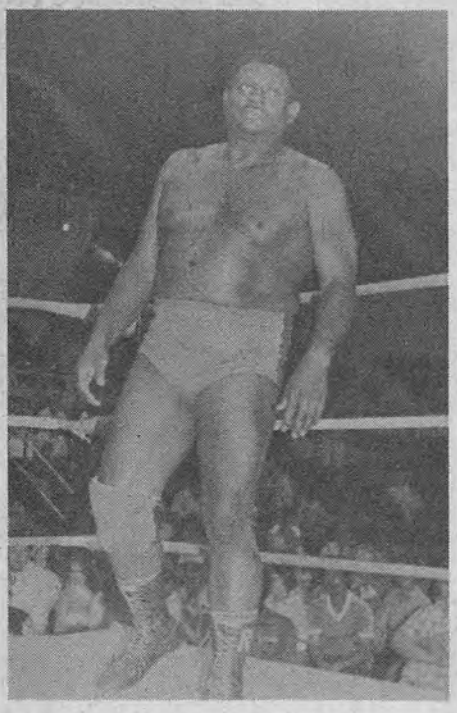
By Bruce Viner



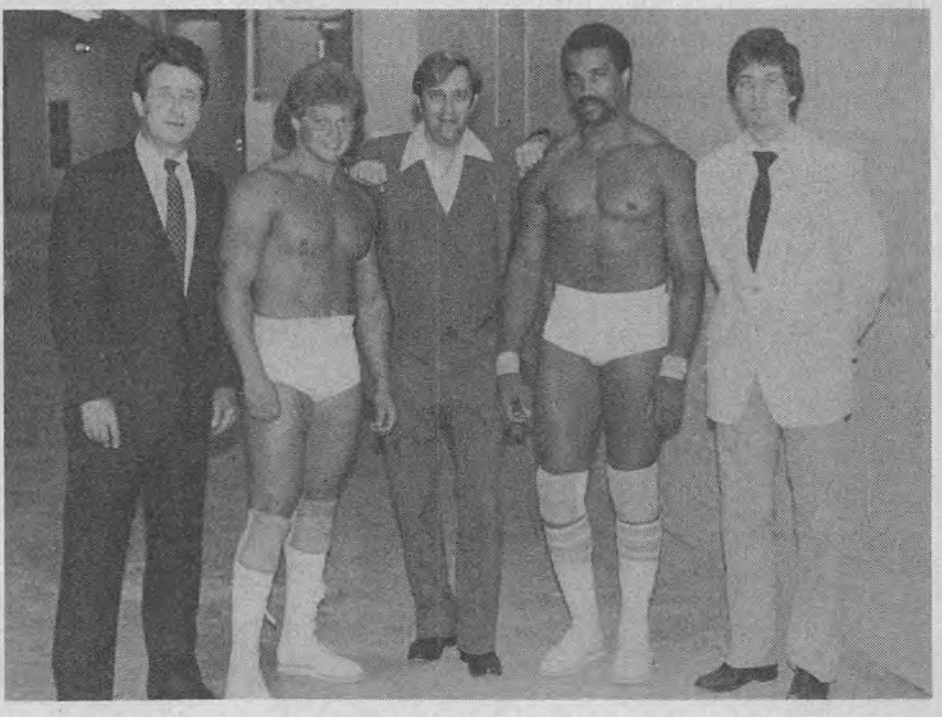
Veteran great Wilbur Snyder is one of the most popular stars who have appeared recently in the Peoria ring.



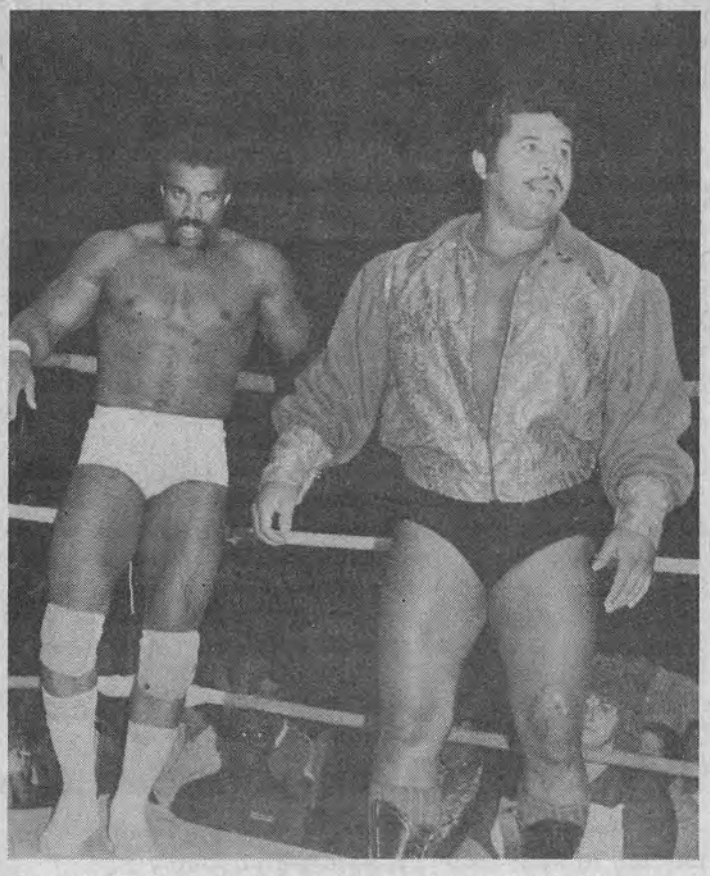
Snyder had Max Blue pretty much under control with a headscissors hold during their recent ring encounter with each other.



Rufus R. Jones is another wrestler with a large fan following in the Peoria area.

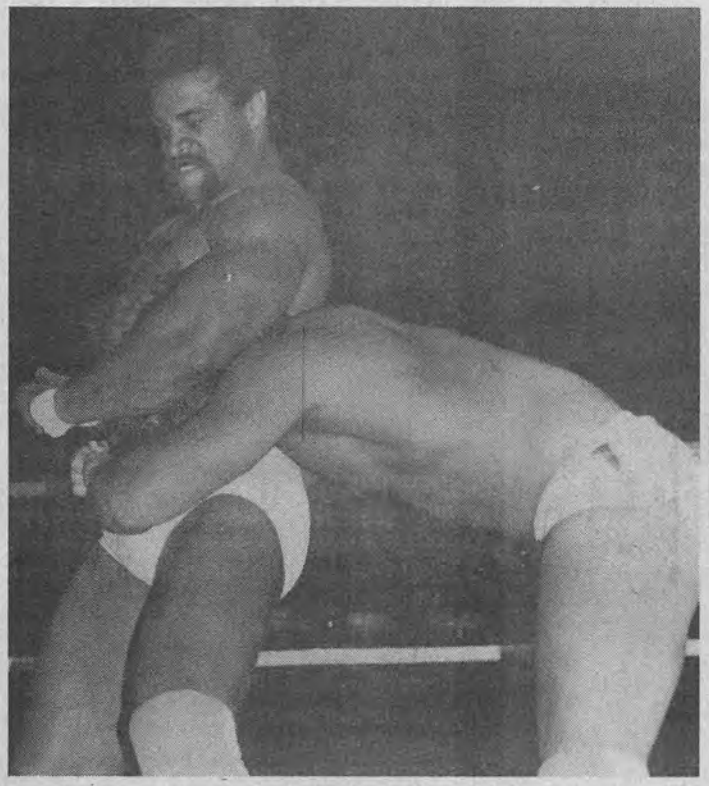


Ring announcer Ken Gerber, Brian McRuff, promoter Mike Gratchner, Rock Stevens, and timekeeper Mike Pence posed for our readers before a recent card.

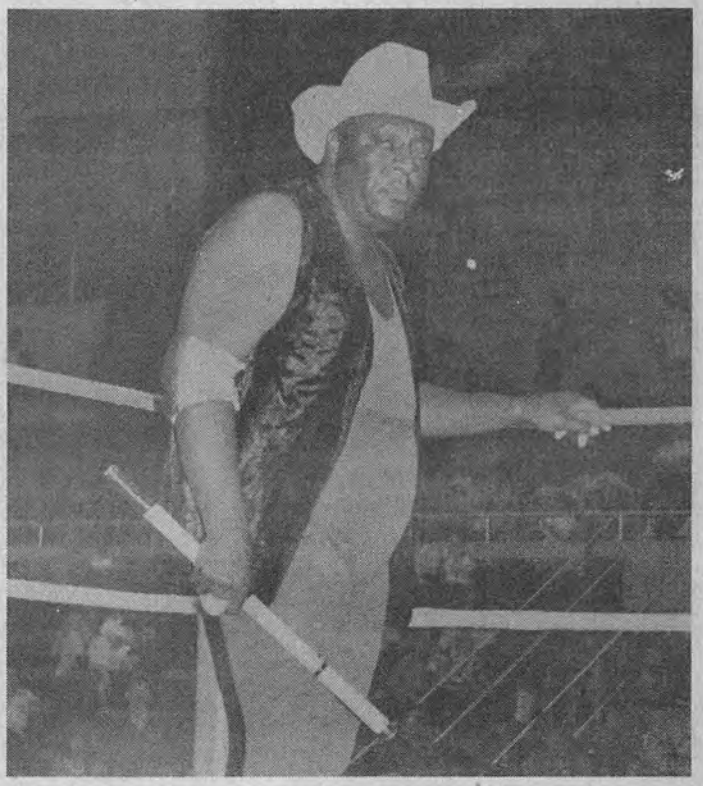


Speedy El Bracero (Jose Martine) and Rock Stevens proved to be a big hit with the fans when they united as a tag team combination.

Mike Dupree and Ben Cagle on the other hand are two young wrestlers that the Peoria fans dislike because of their unruly ring methods.

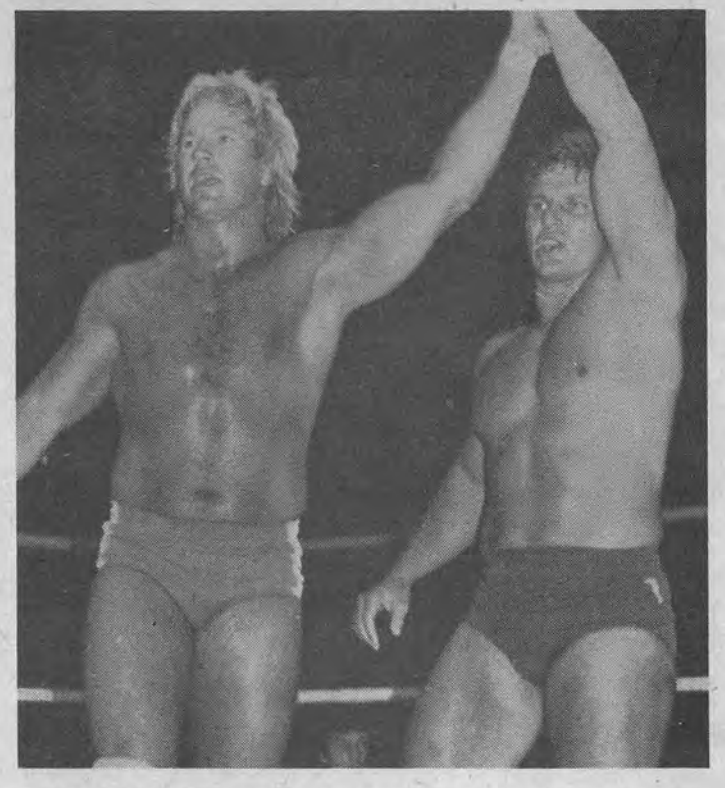


During a match pitting two of the sport's newest rookies against each other, Rock Stevens headlocked Brian McRuff.

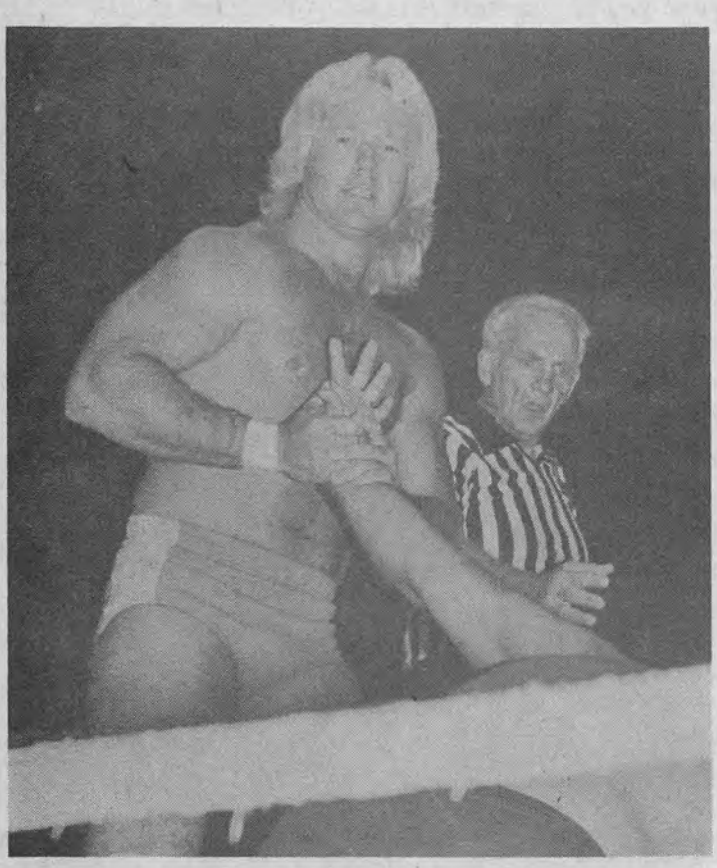


One of the most controversial grapplers on the Peoria scene is wrestler-manager Rev. Tiny Hampton.

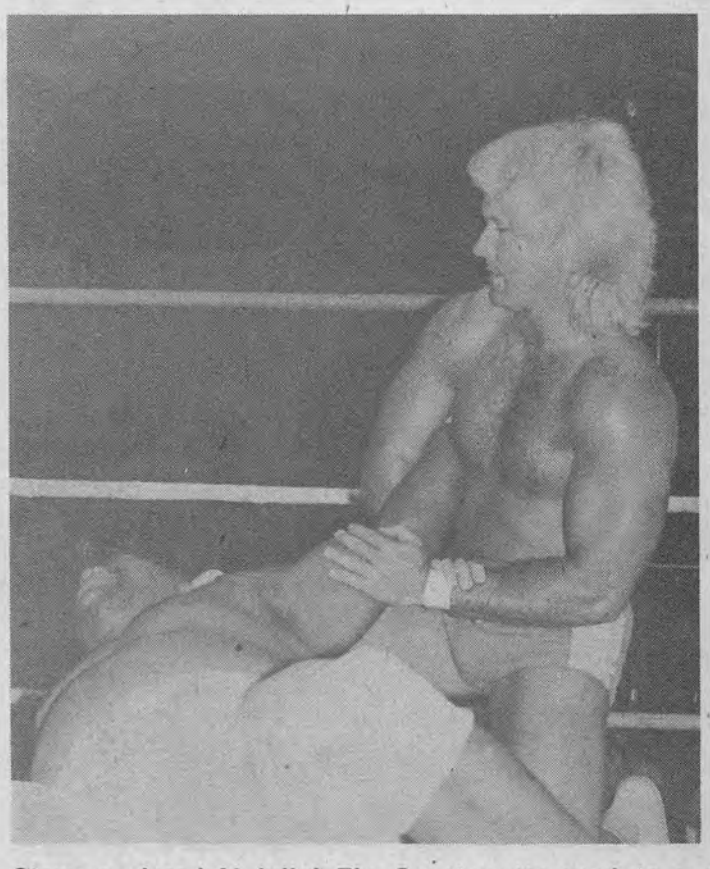
W.W.A. Tag Team Champions Sheik Ali Hassan and Abdullah The Great recently put their honors on the line in the Peoria ring.



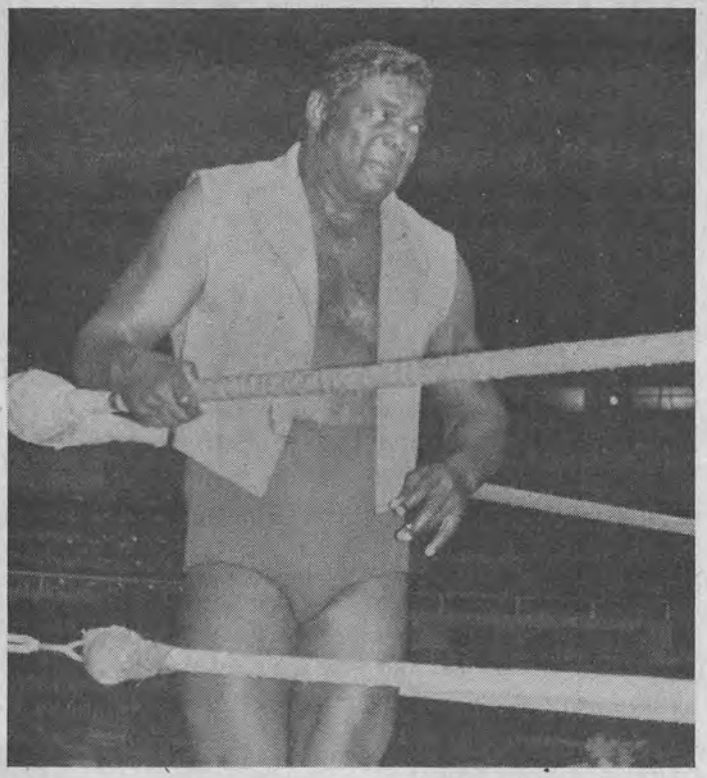
Steve Regal and Spike Huber, one of the leading contenders to their crown, were cheered loudly when they scored a popular victory.



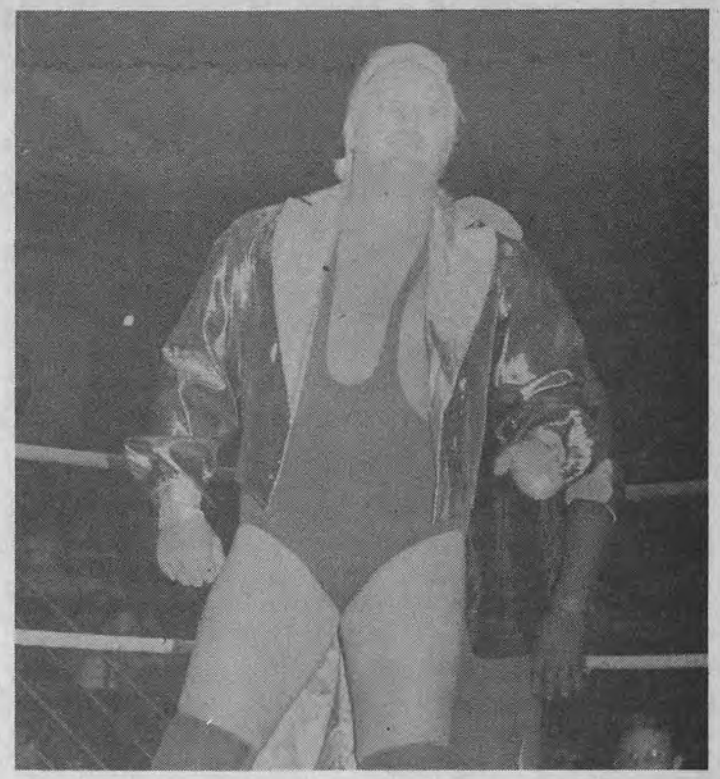
Regal, a familiar face on W.W.A. mats, has returned to the area after successful campaigns under both A.W.A. and N.W.A. promotional banners.



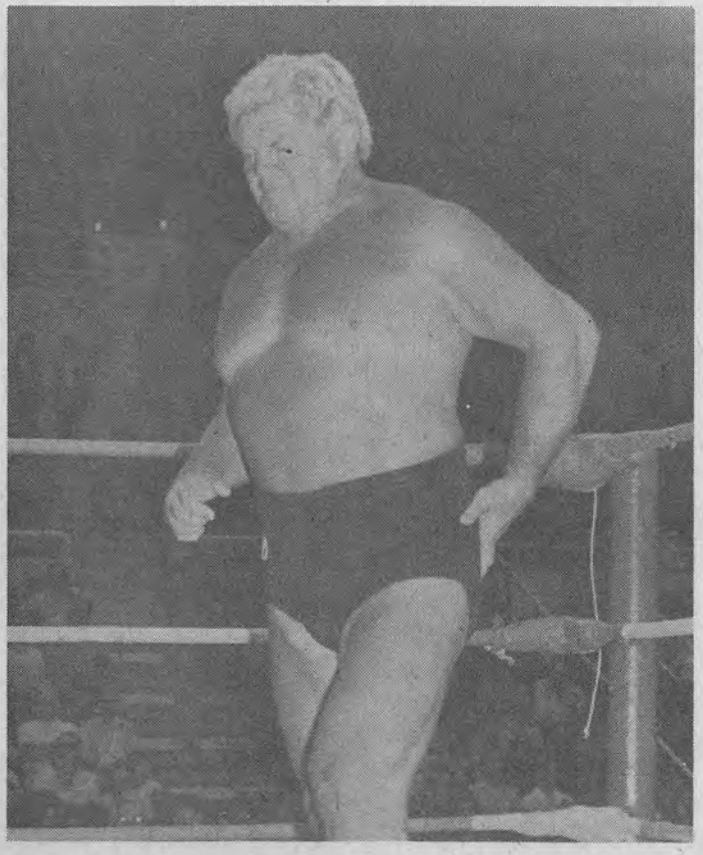
Steve rendered Abdullah The Great pretty much to an immobile state with a series of armbars and hammerlocks.



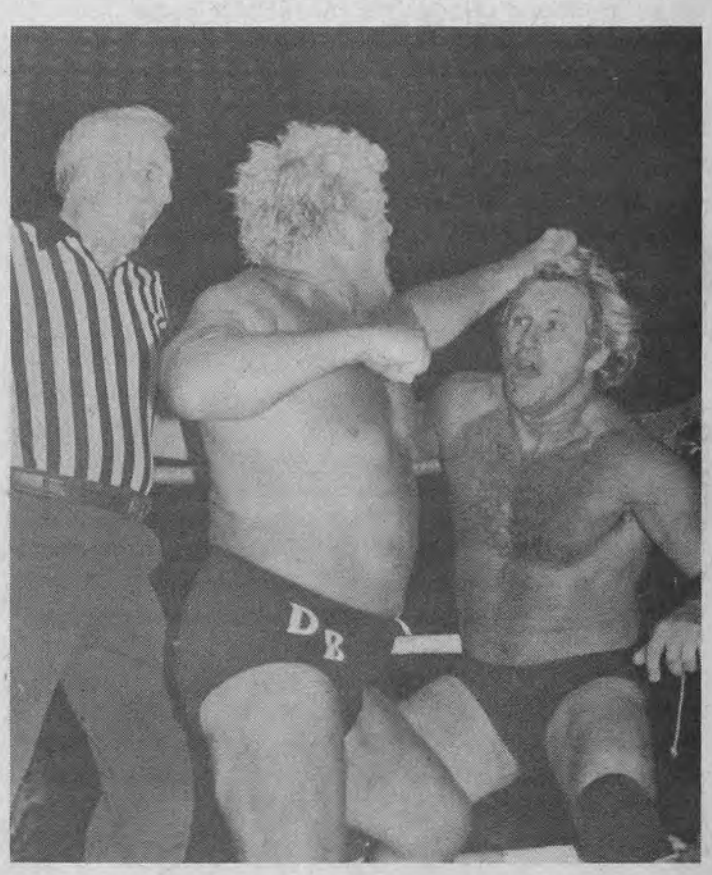
The legendary Bobo Brazil is one of the main stars of the W.W.A. and often times a main eventer in Peoria.



"Gentleman" Jerry Valiant of the notorious wrestling clan is another top attraction in the area.



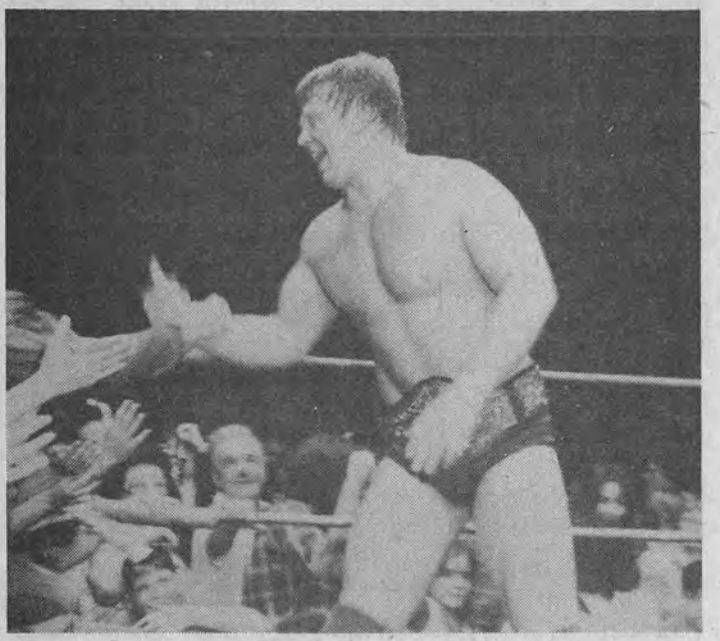
Dick The Bruiser, "The World's Most Dangerous Wrestler," though is without a doubt the area's number one attraction.



The Bruiser really laid into A.W.A. Champion Nick Bockwinkel during a rare Peoria appearance by the highly touted kingpin.

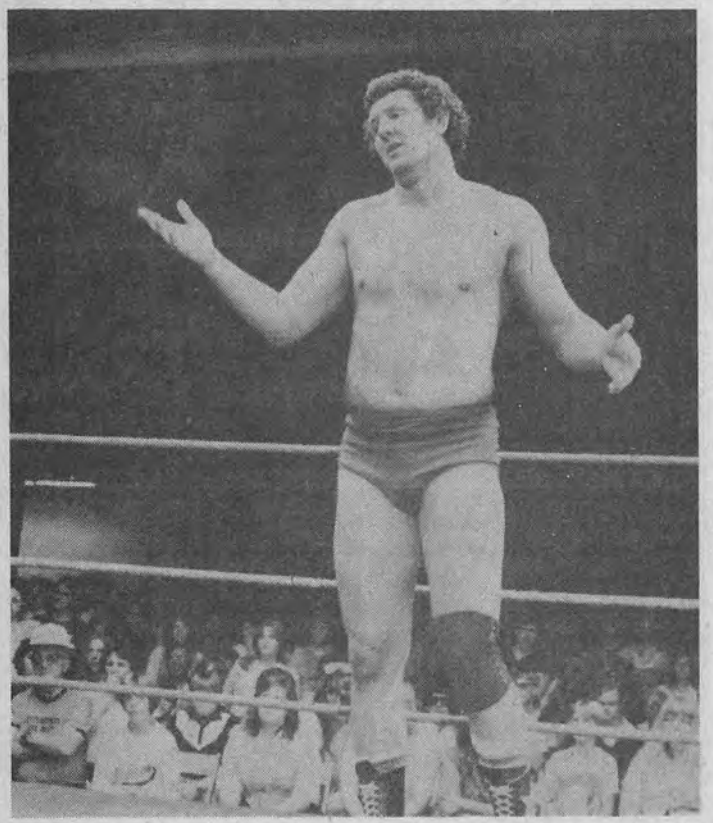
Bob Backlund's battle with Bob Orton for the W.W.F. TITLE

By Ron & Joe Cunliffe

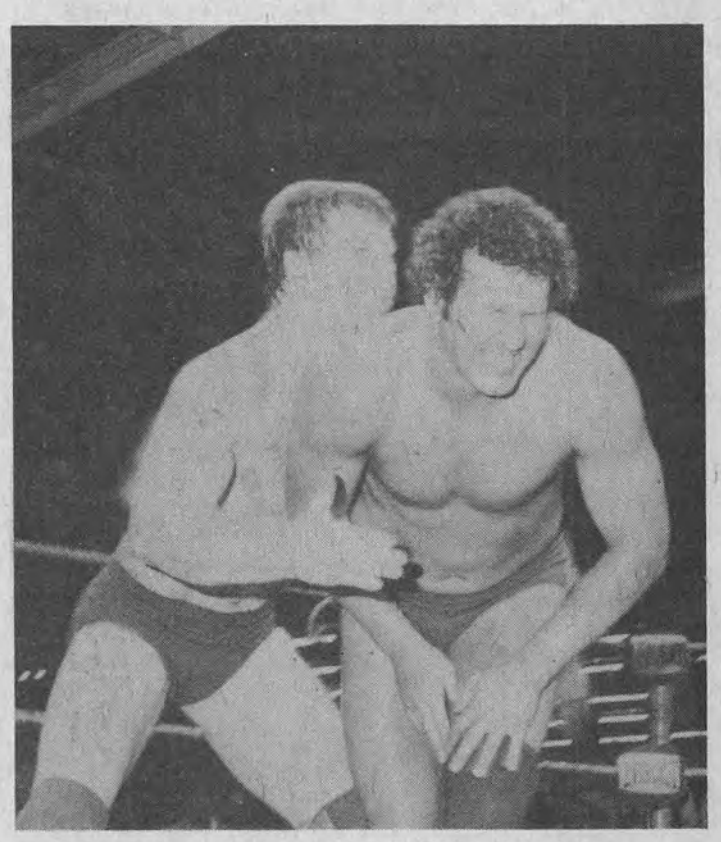


W.W.F. Heavyweight Champion Bob Backlund was well received by the fans in Allentown, Pa., when he was introduced prior to his recent title defense.

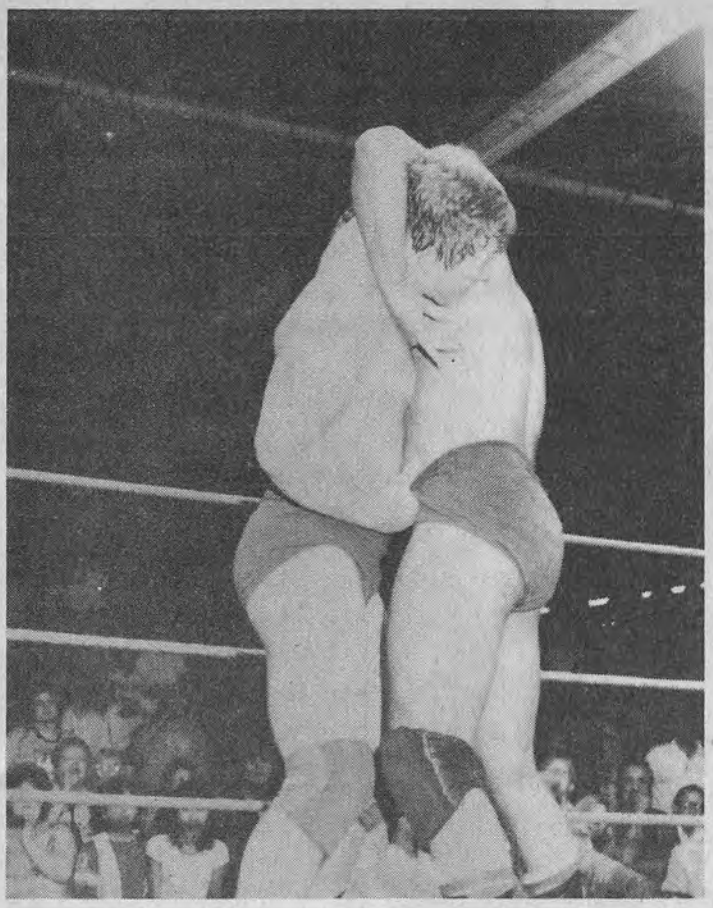
Another fantastic card by Promoter Phil Zacko in Allentown featured Champion Bob Backlund against Bob Orton Jr. The match was wild and wooly as Orton took the initiative by backing Bob into the ropes and instituting dirty breaks. After angering Backlund, he begged Bob to shake his hand, insuring him he would stay clean. That didn't last long as Backlund was on the mat and Orton intended to leap onto him. Backlund foiled that attempt by ramming his head into Orton's belly then after being supplexed and PUMMELED BADLY, Orton left the ring and refused to return, being counted out. The champion was in the ring as the fans stormed it, and it took ten minutes to get back to a hot shower.



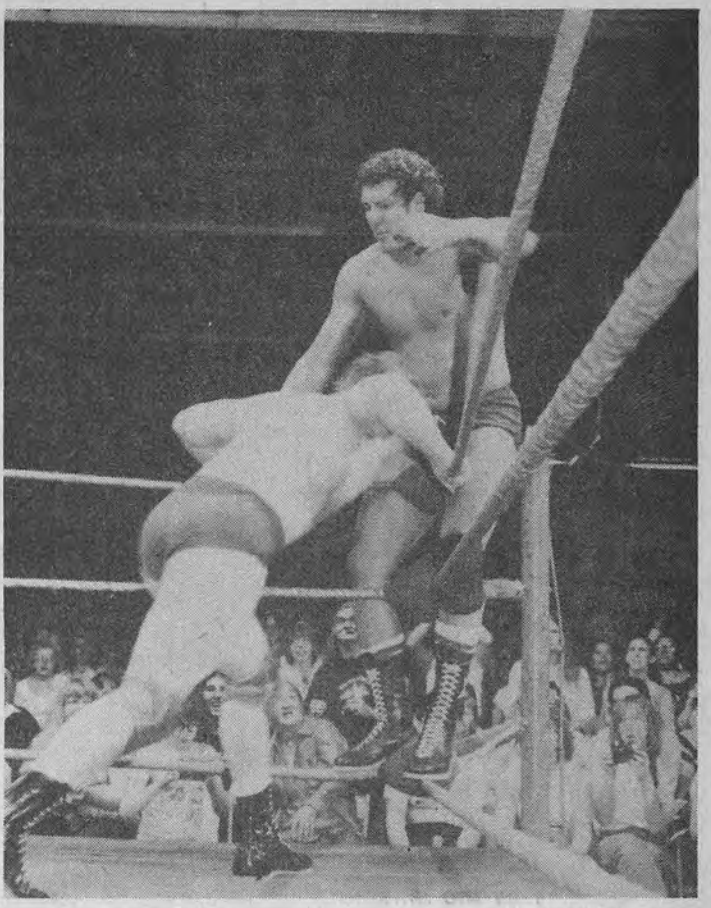
Challenger Bob Orton seemed to take the attitude that he could care less what the fans thought about him or his tactics.



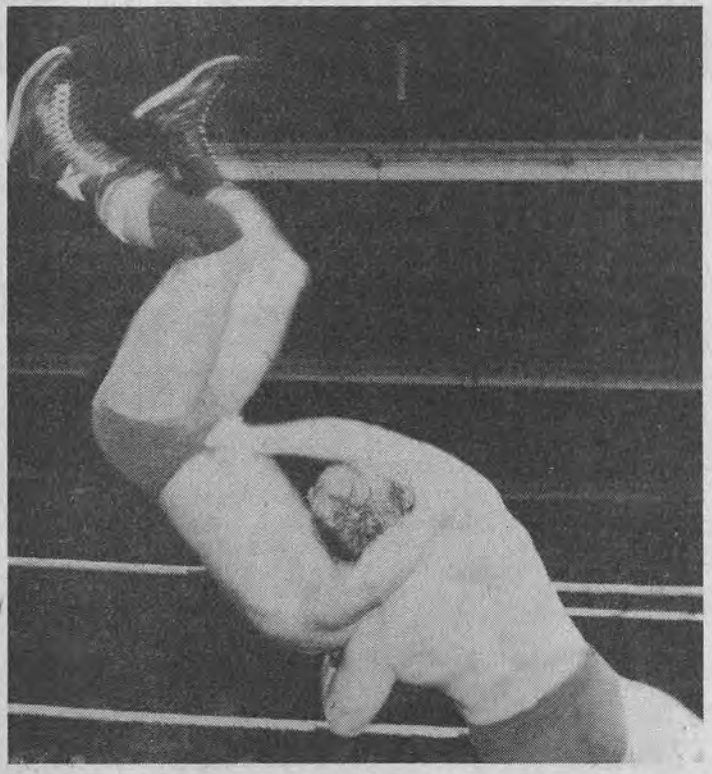
Orton had long claimed that Backlund had been ducking him since their amateur days, but the champion soon proved to be the aggressor in the match.



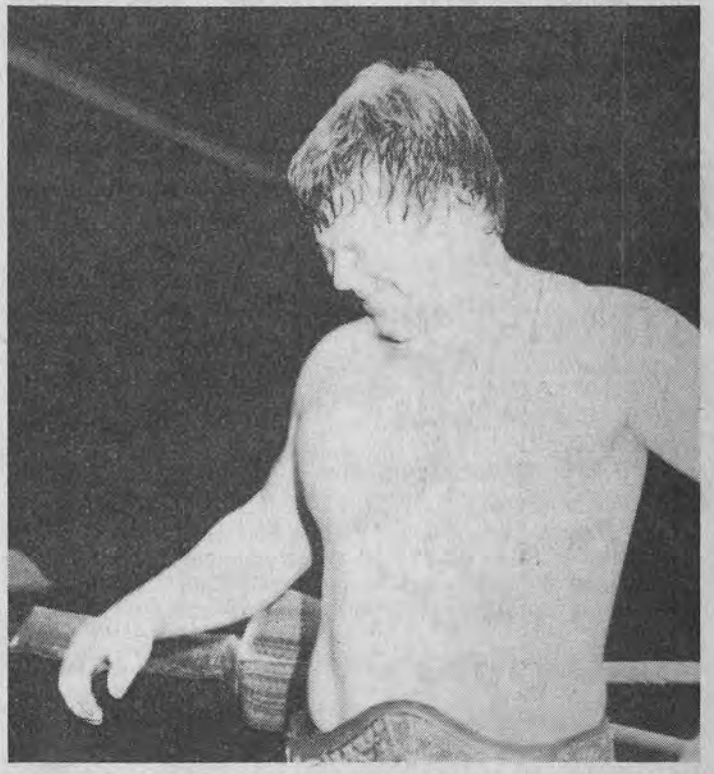
Both men had the same idea at the same time as they tried to gain the proper leverage for a suplex.



After hoisting Orton into a sitting position on top of the corner ropes, Backlund nailed him with a shoulder block to the stomach region.



Then in a move that electrified the Allentown fans, the W.W.F. kingpin gave Orton one of his own superplexes.



Bob Backlund was a tired, but happy athlete as he left the ring, still the W.W.F. Heavyweight Champion.

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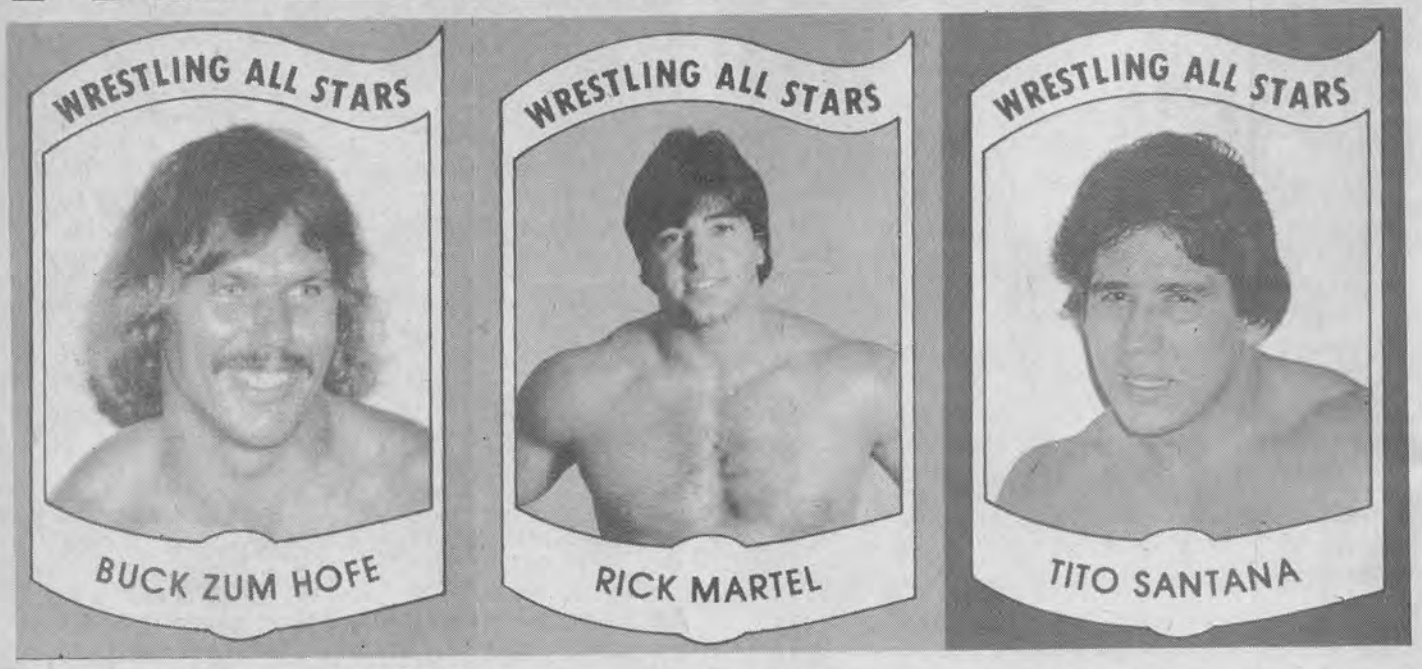

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Funk & Von Erich call it quits

By Howard M. Baum

David Von Erich enters the ring area with Terry Funk, who has of course taken his brother's side in the recent conflict.

When David Von Erich, eldest son of the famous wrestling family and already a superstar in his native Texas, came to the Florida area nearly a year ago, veteran Dory Funk, Jr. recognized the scientific star's great potential and took the young Texan under his wing. David shocked his many fans by joining up with the noted rulebreaker, and even more so by adopting Funk's philosophy of wrestling: victory at any cost. Funk and the incredibly cocky Von Erich rose to the top of the Florida tag team scene and gave area teams a run for their money, including arch-rivals Sweet Brown Sugar and "Hacksaw" Reed.

After riding the crest of the tag team scene for a couple of months, the team temporarily split up so Funk could go touring around the world to defend his coveted International Heavyweight Title. With Funk away, Von Erich continued the wave of terror, and quickly became one of the most despised grapplers in the history of Florida wrestling, causing a near-riot by his very appearance in an arena. The rulebreaking Von Erich went through his opposition like a buzzsaw, pounding area favorites like Sweet Brown Sugar and Mike Graham into the mat.

Von Erich was on his way to the top, and soon captured former N.W.A. champ Jack Brisco's Southern Title, which many say is a stepping stone to the N.W.A. World Title, currently held by "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. Meanwhile, Funk returned from his successful tour and the two had picked up where they left off; almost.

There were some obvious changes within the structure of the team. During interviews, for example, when Funk insisted that Von Erich refer to him only as "Mr. Funk," in addition to a great deal of dissension between the two during their tag matches, such as when David, after carrying a large portion othe match, wanted to tag out, Funk would merely offer advice and literally push the exhausted Von Erich back into the action. This really burnt David up, and he soon realized that he was being used as a stooge by Funk.

This didn't last very long, however, as David decided to give Dory a taste of his own medicine during a televised match against two of their most hated opponents, Sweet Brown Sugar and Blackjack Mulligan Jr., when he refused to tag the hurting Funk, sending the normally cool Texan into a rage. To make matters worse between the two, when David finally did tag in he caught Funk squarely on the jaw with a hard right, by accident, as they doubleteamed Mulligan. This had cost them the match and Funk had exploded; he decked Von Erich and prepared to leave the ring, when David offered his hand and apologized to Funk for the misunderstanding. Funk responded by slapping Von Erich in the face. Trying to control himself, David offered his hand once again, and Funk slapped him again. David tried once more, and Funk blew his top; he floored Von Erich with a tremendous sucker-punch and kicked the fallen Texan in the ribs, leaving him battered and dazed in the ring; but Von Erich, now furious, grabbed the retreating Funk from behind and proceeded to give him the beating of his life, rendering his former friend and partner a bloody mess. This was David Von Erich's day of vengeance, and it was a long time in coming.

When asked about the split, Funk says that he made Von Erich and he can break him, while Von Erich claims that Funk was jealous of his good looks and all the attention he was getting.

The two proud Texans met in a brutal bout later that week, and after Dory had been disqualified for his roughhouse tactics, his brother Terry joined the fray and helped beat David into a bloody pulp.

No one was more surprised than Von Erich himself when Mike Graham and Blackjack Mulligan Jr., two of Von Erich's greatest rivals, came to the rescue and saved David from the Funks' savage beating.

As the three shook hands in the middle of the ring amid the cheers of the fans, it appeared as though a great new alliance had been formed, an alliance that could very well mean the end for the Funks.

During more peaceful times David patted the back of Dory Funk Jr. before the two engaged in a successful tag team match together.

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MID SOUTH BACK ISSUES: ☐#3 ☐#41 ☐#42 ☐#43 ☐#47 ☐#48 ☐#49 ☐#50 ☐#51 ☐#52 ☐#53 ☐#54 ☐#55 ☐#56 ☐#57 ☐#58

N.W.A. OKLAHOMA BACK ISSUES: ☐#340 ☐#341 ☐#342

N.W.A. PUERTO RICO BACK ISSUES: ☐#2 ☐#3 ☐#4 ☐#5 ☐#6 ☐#7 ☐#8 ☐#9 ☐#10

W.W.F. BACK ISSUES: ☐#50 ☐#85 ☐#86 ☐#87 ☐#88 ☐#90 ☐#96 ☐#97 ☐#98 ☐#101 ☐#101-B ☐#102 ☐#102-B ☐#103 ☐#104 ☐#105 ☐#106 ☐#107 ☐#108 ☐#109 ☐#111 ☐#112 ☐#113 ☐#114 ☐#115 ☐#116 ☐#117 ☐#120 ☐#121 ☐#122 ☐#123 ☐#124 ☐#126 ☐#130 ☐#131 ☐#132 ☐#133 ☐#134 ☐#136 ☐#137 ☐#140 ☐#143 ☐#144 ☐#145 ☐#146 ☐#147 ☐#148 ☐#149 ☐#150 ☐#151 ☐#152 ☐#153 ☐#154 ☐#155

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Jim Breaks
Collector of Wrestling Titles

By Evan R. Treharne

Jim Breaks has been around a long time now, and he certainly has created a great deal of interest to followers during his career. Jim is a tough and tenacious battler, who always keeps himself in tip-top physical condition.

As a school boy he was an enthusiastic boxer, footballer and swimmer. Little wonder he has a fine physique, of which he can be justly proud. I wonder how many fans have spotted his extremely powerful neck and thighs, the hallmark of a true wrestler.

After working in a local textile mill in the Bradford area, he then spent two years in the army as a physical training instructor. When his national service was completed, he returned to the Windmill wrestling club in Bradford, where as an amateur he became the Northern Counties champion, and runner up in the British championships. Bernard Murray, himself then a first rate wrestler, took Jim Breaks under his wing, and introduced Jim into professional wrestling. In double quick time Jim defeated ring-wise Melwyn Riss, to capture the British Lightweight Title, at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in 1963.

With a championship under his belt, Jim Breaks had set a pattern, and won the European lightweight crown, following up this in 1967 to take the British weight honours from the more than capable Alan Sargeant.

In the 1970's Breaks changed his style from slick, fast scientific approach to the bustling, rulebending tactics which he uses today. However, it should be pointed out he hasn't lost any of his old skills, but added the roughhouse style to make him an even more formidable fighter. He loses his title from time to time, but it seems he is almost never without a title as during his career he has won the British Lightweight Title six times, British Welterweight Title four times and European Lightweight crown three times.

Many of Jim Breaks wins come by way of arm-lift submissions, and his greatest ambition is to win the World Lightweight Title from the current holder, Johnny Saint, with whom he has tangled with varying results from time to time. Those who know the true worth of Breaks, would only be too ready to state the winning of the world crown is well within his capacity.

Jim Breaks is more of a man of action than talking, despite his loud mouth shouts within the ring. I have often met him in the dressing rooms, but he rarely had much to say to me. From this I am not surprised he hasn't a fan club, as he just wouldn't have the inclination to supply details of himself to any person wishing to handle such a club on his behalf. This is more to his credit, as too many wrestlers have fan clubs, and are not worthy of support as they are too lazy to give their secretaries details of themselves or help with its running. Exceptions to the rule are Brian Maxine and Steve Grey as their clubs are very successful.

Jim Breaks has tremendous faith in his own abilities and goes into every contest knowing he has all the qualities to win, and any opponents had better respect this belief.

Whether Alan Dennison, the reigning British Welterweight Champion could make the weight to defend against Jim Breaks remains to be seen. But I feel sure Jim may have some ideas of taking a tilt at the European Middleweight Title held by Keith Haward. Who knows?

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Area Closeups Continued from Page 12

Pedro Morales, Salvatore Bellomo, Tony "Mr. U.S.A." Atlas, Black Jack Mulligan, Andre The Giant, Salvatore Bellomo, Swede Hanson, Tony Garea, Pat Patterson, S.D. Jones, Pete Sanchez, Steve Travis, Johnny Rodz, Jose Estrada, Baron Mikel Scicluna, Charlie Fulton, Mr. X, The Executioner, Mac Rivera, Bob Bradley, Barry Hart, Mighty Joe Thunder, Rocky Cole, Steve King, Victor Macabo, Frankie Williams, Pete Rosello, Jeff Craney, lady wrestling stars The Fabulous Moolah, Le Lani Kai, Vivian St. John, Peggy Lee, Sherri Martel, and midget grapplers Little Beaver, Sky Low Low, Farmer Jerome, Sunny Boy, and The Haiti Kid.

THE NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

As in the past we will start our look at the promotions that hold a membership in the N.W.A. by looking at the Charlotte booking office headed by Jim and David Crockett. We figure this is a logical starting point due to the fact that Jim Crockett currently is also the president of the entire N.W.A. From what information that we have received lately, there have been no indication of any title changes since our report of last issue.

Ivan Koloff and "Handsome" Jimmy Valiant continue to feud over the area's T.V. Title, so do Sgt. Slaughter and Wahoo McDaniel over the U.S. Heavyweight Title, and Jack Brisco and Roddy Piper over the Mid Atlantic Heavyweight Championship. On the tag team scene Privates Don Kernodle and Jim Nelson have been feuding with Pork Chop Cash and King Parsons for the Mid Atlantic duo crown.

N.W.A. Heavyweight Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair retained his title in a hard fought area defense against Jake "The Snake" Roberts.

A lot of top wrestling talent is currently wrestling for this office, some that we have not already mentioned include: Gene Kiniski, The Magnificent Muraco, Paul Jones, Gene Anderson, Matt Borne, Mike Rotondo, Jim Dalton, Kelly Kiniski, David Patterson, Juan Reynosa, Ron Ritchie, "Bad Bad" LeRoy Brown, Ninja with manager Sir Oliver Humperdink, "King Kong" Angelo Mosca, The Masked Superstar, Johnny Weaver, Ken Timbs, Mike Davis, Ricky Steamboat, Jay Youngblood, Tim Hoerner, Bill White, and Ali Bey (The Turk.)

Closely connected with this office is the Toronto, Ontario, Canada, booking office headed by Frank Tunney. Mr. Tunney brings in wrestlers from not only the N.W.A., but also the W.W.F. and A.W.A. His most recent

Bob Backlund

cards have featured W.W.F. Heavyweight Champion Bob Backlund battling Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka. Other title action has found "King Kong" Angelo Mosca retaining his laurels against Gene Kiniski. Others active on recent cards have included Andre The Giant, "Big" John Studd, The Sensational Intelligent Destroyer, Ninja, Jay Youngblood, Ricky Steamboat, Johnny Weaver, Tony Parisi, Privates Jim Nelson & Don Kernodle, Nick DeCarlo, and Tim Gerard.

Next we examine the Atlanta, Georgia booking office, which is headed by promoters Jim Barnett and Paul Jones. Probably the biggest news from this area is the torrid feud that Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy have been having with World's Tag Team Champions Ole Anderson and Stan Hansen. Since Hayes and Gordy reformed The Fabulous Freebirds tag team combination, they have won the National Tag Team belts, but now want the more prestigious championship owned by their rivals. It almost seems that manager Sonny King is waiting on the sidelines with The Samoans (Afa & Sika) to pounce on whichever team survives this ordeal.

In other title action Paul Orndorff relinquished the National Heavyweight Title in order to concentrate his efforts fully on trying to win the N.W.A. Heavyweight belt from "Nature Boy" Ric Flair. He wasn't successful in his most recent effort and now is thinking about entering the elimination tournament to try and once more win back the National Heavyweight Title.

Another man who is close, but yet so far away from upsetting Flair's applecart is Tommy "Wildfire" Rich. Speaking of him, it has been revealed that sensational Roy Rogers is in reality none other than Johnny Rich, Tommy's younger cousin. It seems that Johnny adopted the name of Roy Rogers for the ring, because he didn't want people to assume that he was trying to cash in on his cousin's reputation.

One person who doesn't care for the rookie no matter what name he is using. The Magnificent Muraco. He literally kicked Johnny out of a recent T.V. interview. It was quite surprising to see none other than Roddy Piper finally restore order, maybe he is having a change of heart?

The Super Destroyer

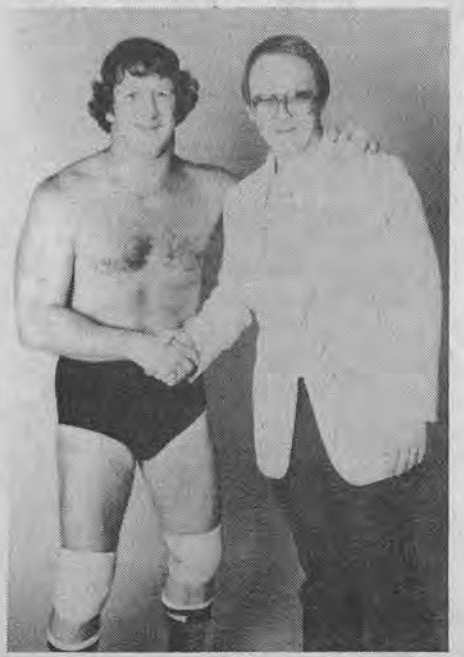
Andre The Giant was in the area recently and took home some big purses by winning a number of battle royals. Other recently wrestling for this promotion not already mentioned include: Tito Santana, The Iron Sheik, Buzz Sawyer, Terry Gibbs, The Junkyard Dog, The Super Destroyer, The Masked Superstar, Tom Prichard, Bob & Brad Armstrong, Ron Fuller, Dale Veasey, Peter Martin, Jimmy Jones, Bob Brown (this is not the "Bulldog" Bob Brown of Kansas City area fame), Burrhead Jones, The

Gallagher Brothers, Deke Rivers, Rick Connors, Ken Hall, Randy Barber, Snake Brown, Rick Thor, Tony Zane, and Randy Stroud.

Next we take a look at the Tampa, Florida booking office headed by promoters Eddie Graham and Jim Barnett. Since our last report Derek Draper had captured the Southern Heavyweight Title. He won those honors by upbending David Von Erich on July 16th at the Lakeland Civic Center, but lost them to Sweet Brown Sugar on July 25th. Other current champions include North American Tag Team Champions — Sweet Brown Sugar and "Hacksaw" Reed, and Florida Heavyweight Champion — Brian Blair.

N.W.A. Heavyweight Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair has been very active in the area defending his honors against the likes of Blair and Reed. As we go to press it was announced in Jerry Prater's excellent Florida program "The Grapvine," that both A.W.A. Champion Nick Bockwinkel and W.W.F. Heavyweight Champion Bob Backlund will soon be in the Sunshine state to defend their honors also.

Other wrestlers currently active in Florida include: Dory & Terry Funk, Mike Graham, Barry Windham, Jim Garvin, King Kong Tonga, The Alabama Chain Gang, Dusty Rhodes, David Sierra, "Big" John Studd, Bruiser Brody, Stan Hansen, Steve Keirn, Terry Allen, Dick Slater, Kendo Nagasaki, Cyclon Negro, Tommy Wright, and Bubba Douglas.



Terry Funk and James C. Melby, managing editor of this magazine.

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Next we take a look at the N.W.A. booking office in Mobile, Alabama, that presents "Southeastern Championship Wrestling" in the Gulf Coast areas of Florida and Alabama. The current list of recognized champions reads as follows: Southeastern Heavyweight Champion — Joe LeDuc, Alabama Heavyweight Champion — Austin Idol, Southeastern Tag Team Champions — The Sheepherders, and U.S. Junior Heavyweight Champion — Scott McGee.

Brad Armstrong was the holder of the U.S. Junior Heavyweight Title, but he vacated it when he decided to step up into the heavyweight class and go for some of those weight division honors. Scott McGee won an elimination tournament to become the new champion.

Title action this month saw The Sheepherders turn back the challenge of Robert Fuller and Randy Rose, Joe LeDuc retain his belt against Austin Idol, and McGee defeat Ted Allen.

Other area news saw Roy Lee Welch suffer a heart attack in Pensacola, Florida, on July 26th. As we go to press he is at home recovering. One of the hottest feuds in the Gulf Coast area remains between Jacques Rogeau and Wayne Farris.

Others wrestling in the area not already mentioned include: Tony Charles, Bob Armstrong, Louie Tillet, The Assassin, Tom Stanton, and Damien.

Next we take a look at the Dallas, Texas N.W.A. booking office. This office runs primarily in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, but recently has promoted some shows in Lubbock, San Antonio, and parts of Oklahoma. Titles recognized by this office are: Texas State Heavyweight Champion — "Wild" Bill Irwin, American Heavyweight Champion — King Kong Bundy, All Asian Tag Team Champions — Kabuki and The Dragon, managed by "Playboy" Gary Hart.

Big news from this area finds Bugsy McGraw no longer associated with managers Gary Hart and Armond Hussian. He never was officially under contract to them, but now has severed all ties with the controversial duo. As a result of his independence McGraw has found himself matched against the likes of Kabuki, and having fans cheering his efforts.

Others wrestling in the area recently not already mentioned include: Kevin & Kerry Von Erich, The Blue Demon, Jose Lothario, Tommy "Wildfire" Rich, Capt. Frank Dusek, Al Madril, Roberto Renesto, Brian Adidas, Raul Castro, and Ken Mantell.

Next we visit the Kansas City N.W.A. booking office headed by promoter Bob Geigel. The recognized champions in this area remain the same as reported in our last issue. "Nature Boy" Roger Kirby is The Central States Champion, Ray "Hercules" Hernandez is the T.V. Champion, and Mike George & Mark Romero are the Central States Tag Team Champions.

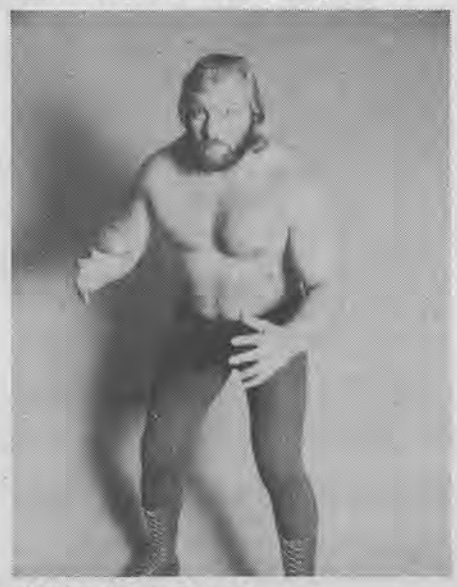
Although he doesn't hold any area title at this time, the hottest wrestler in the area has to be Manny Fernandez. Undefeated in the area at the time of this writing, "The Raging Bull" is seeking a crack at one of the titles.

N.W.A. Heavyweight Champion "Nature Boy" Ric Flair was in the area recently and had a wild bout with former kingpin Harley Race. Race came very close to winning the belt for a record seventh time.

Other recently active in the K.C. area not already mentioned include: Dewey Robertson, Buzz Tyler, Rufus R. Jones, Kim Duk, Abdullah The Great, The Samoans (Chief Tapu & The Great Tio), Art Crews, Gary Royal, Baron Von Raschke, Tom Andrews, and midget stars Tiny Tom and Wee Willie Wilson.

Next we visit the closely connected St. Louis N.W.A. wrestling office. The general manager of this promotion is Larry Matysik, with Pat O'Connor serving as matchmaker, and Bob Geigel and Verne Gagne also being involved as partners.

Dick The Bruiser remains the Missouri State Heavyweight Champion. One man who is out to try and change that status is Harley Race. It doesn't matter what title is involved when it comes to these two, they are the biggest of rivals, and if one wins a championship, the other is sure to appear on the scene and try and take it away.



"Big" John Studd

Others who have recently seen action in the Mound City include: Dusty Rhodes, "Big" John Studd, Dewey Robertson, "Nature Boy" Roger Kirby, Rufus R. Jones, Mark Romero, Manny Frenandez, Mike George, Ray "Hercules" Hernandez, Kim Duk, The Samoans (Chief Tapu & The Great Tio), Art Crews, Buzz Tyler, Tom Andrews, and Jack Kruger.

Next we look at the Pacific Northwest N.W.A. offices. The Portland, Oregon one is headed by Don Owens, and the Seattle, Washington one is under the direction of Dutch Savage. Since our last report Rip Oliver has started to dominate this area's wrestling. Mr. Oliver now is the holder of both the Pacific Northwest Heavyweight Championship, and the Pacific Northwest Tag Team Championship, which he won with "Playboy" Buddy Rose.

Speaking of Rose he has been feuding with "Dr. D," David Shultz. This came about when Shultz doublecrossed Rose in a Tacoma battle royal, causing him to lose. Oliver has not taken sides in this dispute.

Others recently wrestling in the area have been: Tommy Rogers, Steve Pardee, Mike Miller, Dizzy Hogan, Rocky Johnson, Hacksaw Sawyer, Curt Hennig, and Chris Adams.

Traveling up to Canada we unfortunately do not have any current report on the Vancouver, B.C. N.W.A. office. If any of you readers can supply us with current info on this area, it would be greatly appreciated.

We also haven't received much news on the happenings of the Moncton, N.B. N.W.A. office. According to a recent issue of the Kansas City program "All Star Wrestling," Bulldog Bob Brown defeated Leo Burke in thirty-seven minutes to take this area's recognized Canadian Heavyweight Title. Here again we would appreciate any news that any reader might be able to send us on what is happening in this area's rings.

We did receive a nice letter from Colleen Grimsley of Dunedin, New Zealand, who reported on recent action in her part of the world, which is promoted under the N.W.A. banner. Steve Rickard is once more the Com-

monwealth Heavyweight Champion. He had lost those honors to Baron Karl Von Krupp, but later won them back in a rematch.

Rickard also holds the Australasian Tag Team Title with Mark Lewin. Lewin was injured at the hands of Killer Tor Kamata during a recent T.V. bout. The rough and tough Kamata was handed out a short suspension for those actions.

Some others who have been doing well in N.Z. rings as of late have been: Mad Dog Moretti, Samoan Joe, Jak Laki, Ala Talago, and Bruno Bekkar, who has returned to action after recovering from the broken leg he received during his recent Carribean wrestling campaign.

The San Juan, Puerto Rico N.W.A. office also has been quite active as usual. We don't have a current list of recognized champions this month, but we do know that the following wrestlers have recently been active in Carribean rings: Carlos Colon, Abdullah The Butcher, Les Thornton, Johnny Rivera, The Invader, Pierre Martel, The Moondogs, Tommy & Eddie Gilbert, Dory & Terry Funk, The Fabulous Kangaroos, The Medics, Gorilla Monsoon, Big Red, Dick Steinborn, Roy Callender, "Hangman" Bobby Jaggers, Steve Lawler, Kareem Mohammad, and midget wrestlers Chico Santana and Kid Bugalu.

THE MID SOUTH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

The M.S.W.A. remains one of the most important organizations in all of professional wrestling, despite any current affiliation with the A.W.A., W.W.F., or N.W.A.

The president of the Mid South Wrestling Association is Charlie Leigh. There are three booking offices, one is in Jackson, Mississippi headed by George and Gil Culkin, another is in Shreveport, Louisiana, which is directed by Grizzly Smith and Jack Curtis Jr., and the third is based in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and is under the guidance of Cowboy Bill Watts.

The current recognized champions of the M.S.W.A. are as follows: North American Heavyweight Champion — Ted DiBiase, Mid South Tag Team Champions — The Junkyard Dog & Mr. Olympia, Louisiana State Heavyweight Champion — Killer Khan, managed by General Scandor Akbar, Mississippi State Heavyweight Champion — Mr. Olympia, and Brass Knucks Champion — Cowboy Bill Watts.

Ted DiBiase has been a real center of controversy lately. Dick Murdoch, a man who helped to break him into the sport of professional wrestling recently returned and can't believe the change in his one time protege. Dick figures the only way to set Ted straight is to give him an old fashioned Texas whipping, so needless to say the two are feuding.

The Junkyard Dog is yet another one out gunning for Ted's hide. JYD made his stand quite clear when he refused to wrestle on the Mid South Wrestling T.V. program until he was given a rematch with DiBiase. A short time ago Ted humiliated The Dog by using a foreign object to take the North American Heavyweight belt away in a very controversial T.V. duel.

The Junkyard Dog & Ernie "The Cat" Ladd

JYD meanwhile has formed an awesome tag team combination with Ernie "The Cat" Ladd. These two former rivals have united on only a few occassions, but so far have proven to be unbeatable. The fact remains that The Junkyard Dog and Mr. Olympia are the number one team in Mid South rings, so it looks like he now has two fine men to team with.

Others recently wrestling in the area not already mentioned include: The One Man Gang, The Grappler, Iron Mike Sharpe, Col. Buck Robley, "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan, "Precious" Paul Ellering, Bob Roop, The Assassin, Ricky Harris, Buddy Landell, Bill Ash, Cocoa Samoa, Vinnie Romeo, Mike Bond, "Hangman" Ricky Harris, Joe Stark, Rick McCord, David Price, "Bad Bad" LeRoy Brown, "Dr. Death" Steve Williams, Jesse Barr, Mr. Wrestling II, and The Masked Superstar.

The Grappler

THE INDEPENDENTS

As we have pointed out in previous issues, this section is devoted to smaller promotions that do not belong to one of the four major promotional groups already covered. We simply list these other promotions as independent because they aren't affiliated with other promotional organizations. This does not imply that they are inferior to the ones listed earlier. In many cases some of the big name wrestlers working for the four major organizations also appear on the cards of the independent promotions. Our coverage is limited to how much actual information is received on the various promotions each month. It is our attempt and purpose to try and cover everyone who is involved actively in the sport of professional wrestling.

NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE: This is a small independent promotion that is based in Wilmington, N.C. They recently have run cards in North and South Carolina cities such as Jacksonville, Wallace, Rock Hill, Wilmington, and Camp LeJeune. Recognized champions of this promotion are: U.S. Tag Team Champions — Mike and Buddy Shane, Brass Knucks Champion — Brute Bernard. This group tapes many of its live cards to later be shown on T.V. Other wrestlers recently working for this promotion include: The Executioners, Gene Liggett, The Gallagher Brothers, Mr. Wrestling, Dave Forester, Ray Jackson, Randy Silverheels, The Mighty Igor, Dusty Rhodes Jr., and

The Fabulous Moolah & Le Lani Kai

lady wrestlers The Fabulous Moolah, Lei Lani Kai, Kandi Maloy, Susan Sterling, Wendi Richter, Joyce Grable, Judy Martin, Sheri Martel, Susan Sterling, Dot Carter, Donna Christanello, Vivian St. John, Terri Shane, and The White Venus.

GLOBAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE: This is a small independent promotion that operates in the Philadelphia area, with some cards being promoted in the state of New Jersey also. Their recognized heavyweight champion is "Wild" Buck Slattery, and the tag team champions are The New Freebirds (Bill & John Borzak), who are managed by "Pretty Boy" Larry Sharpe. Others recently wrestling for G.W.A. include: Chief White Feather, Johnny Starr, Eddie Ortiz, The Patriot, Wolfgang Von Heller, Sweet Daddy White, Kenny Sullivan, Mad Dog Marino, The Maniac, Stan Lavdis, The Concrete Cowboy, Juan Vasquez, Johnny Valiant, Don Rock, Ron Shaw, and Ed Bonzo.

WESTERN STATES ALLIANCE: This promotion runs a number of smaller arenas in Northern California. It is headed by promoter Antone "Ripper" Leone. We seemed to have straightened out the confusion over this group's titles, that we encountered while compiling last month's column. The heavyweight championship of this promotion was held by Rocky Soiter, but was lost to Carl Batterman on July 29th in the Stockton Civic Auditorium. Then in early August John Tolos and Victor Rivera captured the tag team title from Ron Starr and Steve Bolus. Other title action this month saw Batterman keep the singles title in a match against Alexis Smirnoff. Others recently wrestling for this promotion include: The Kelly Twins, Vick Ross, Sylvano Sousa, "Mad Dog" Ed Moretti, Mike Luca, and Kalua.

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: This group is familiar to long-time readers of this publication. As we have mentioned in the past, the I.C.W. is based in Lexington, Kentucky, has its own T.V. network, and promotes in a number of different states, with the most recently active spots being in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Illinois. Current recognized champions are: Heavyweight Champion — Randy "Macho Man" Savage, U.S. Champion — Thunderbolt Patterson, Tag Team Champions — "Hustler" Rip Rogers & "Pistol" Pez Whatley, T.V. Champion — Leapin' Lanny, and Southeastern Heavyweight Champion — Ronnie Garvin.

According to one report we received, Ox Baker and Thunderbolt Patterson just recently left this promotion. Both

Bill & John Borzak

Sweet Daddy White & Otto Von Heller

had been very active recently under the I.C.W. banner, and had figured in many recent main events. Word has it that Randy Savage recently announced on T.V. that he is thinking of retiring as he feels that he doesn't have suitable competition.

Others who remain active on I.C.W. cards include: Walter Johnson, Ron Strunk, George Weingeroff, El Bracero, Gilbert Guerrero, Hoot Gibson, Jerry Anderson, Juan Zapata, Plowboy Pete, Tony Falk, Gary Royal, Angelo Poffo, lady wrestlers Debbie Combs and Donna Day, and Ginger The Wrestling Bear.

There is one other independent group that we received a report on that runs cards every other week in Logan, Ohio. They don't have a promotional banner that they promote wrestling under, but do recognize Bulldog Durango as the Ohio State Champion, and John DiBiase as the International Champion. Others who have recently competed in this groups rings include: The Funkadelics managed by Marcial Bovee, Mike McGee, Shamu, The Headhunters, Chief Silver Cloud, Rocco Verona, Batman & Robin, The Hillbilly, Paul Harley, and Sonny Pride.

We realize that there are other active independent promotions such as the World Wrestling Association, International Wrestling Federation, and Big Bear Promotions. Unfortunately we didn't receive any news on these promotions recently, so we have nothing new to report on them at this time. Hopefully before we go to press with our next issue we will receive information on all the different areas that we were lacking in this issue.

CONCLUSION: This completes our trip around the mat world for another issue. Remember you can help us compile the writing of this column by sending your letters, newspaper clippings, programs, or VHS video tapes to as at: AREA Closeups, P.O. Box 3325, Mankato, Minnesota 56002. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people, who supplied us with information to help compile this current column: David Williamson, Dale Pierce, Judy Tatum, Bob Weckesser, Jr., George Schire, George Hill, Leonard Sims, Cheryl McDonald, Bob Creely, Ken Jugan, Gene Gordon, Marvin Rubin, Mick Karch, Bruce Krietzman, Gary Nothstein, John Pinzker, Art Palmer, Christine Olson, Leonard J. Orner, Colleen Grimsey, Koichi Yoshizawa, Kate Mast, Linda Churchill, Don Parks, David Petrie, Darla Staggs, Diane Devine, William Wilson, Gary Juster, Eleanor Earley, Chuck Thornton, Don Valenti, David Braun, James Malasky, Imants Krumins, Tony Siebo, Melanie Thigpen, Pat Malone, Boyd Pierce, Mario Reyes, Kathy Dowd, Jim Ross, and Jacques LaLong.

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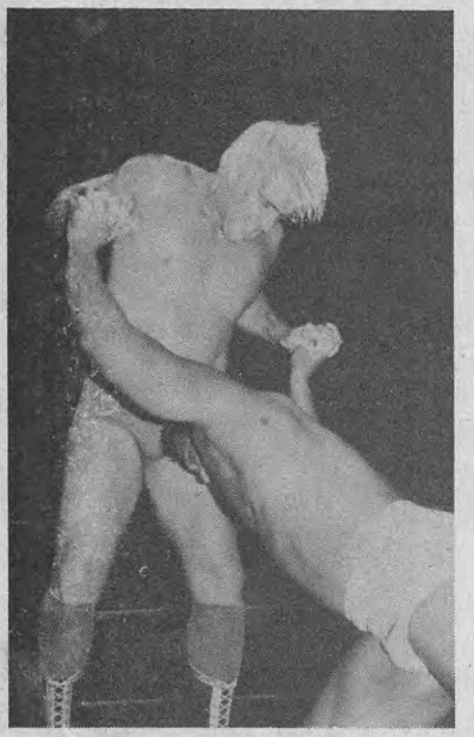
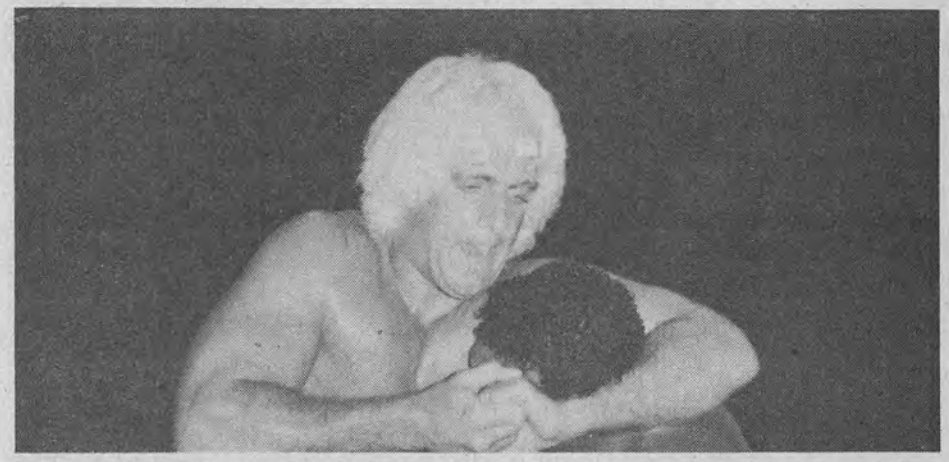
Hacksaw Reed came close to taking the N.W.A. Title

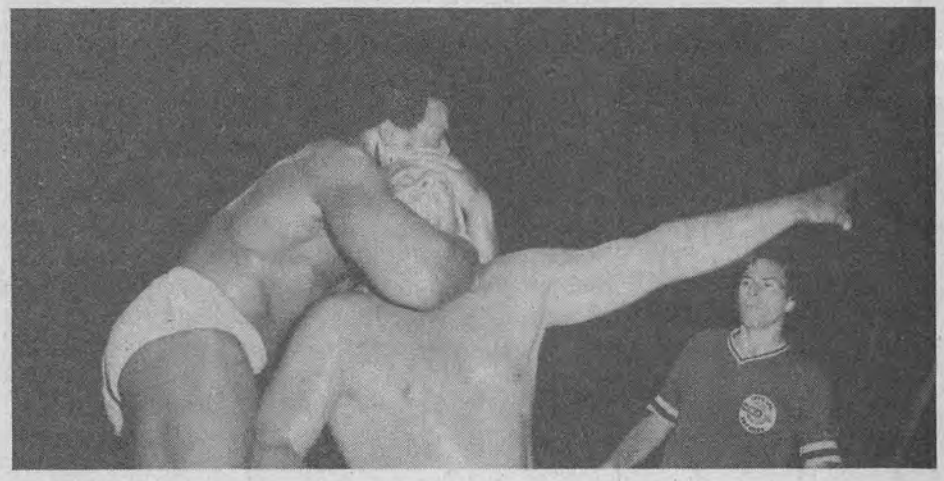
By Larry Cranston



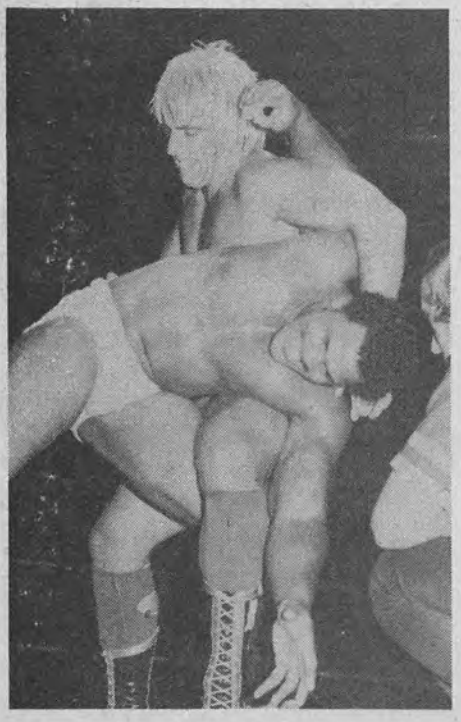
N.W.A. Champion Ric Flair got the upper hand over "Hacksaw" Reed in a mid-ring test of strength.



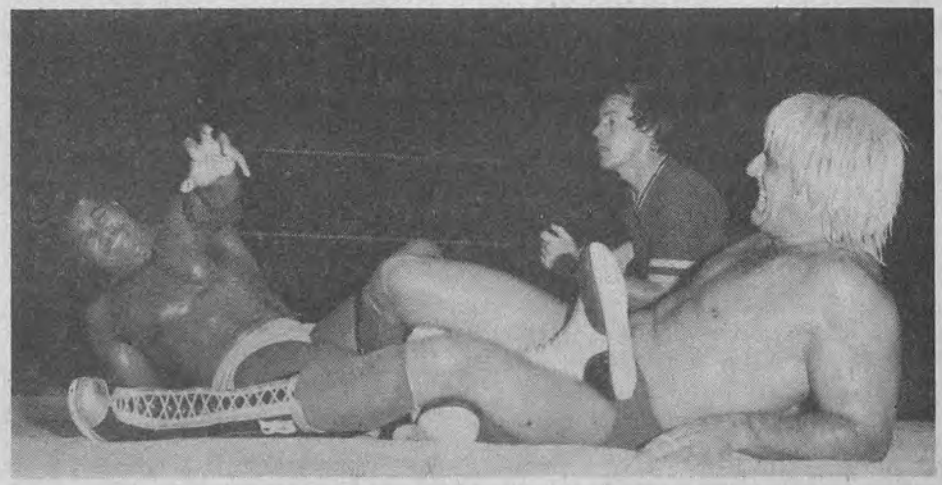
"Nature Boy" Flair early in the match stuck to the basic fundamental holds such as headlocks in an effort to try and wear out his challenger.



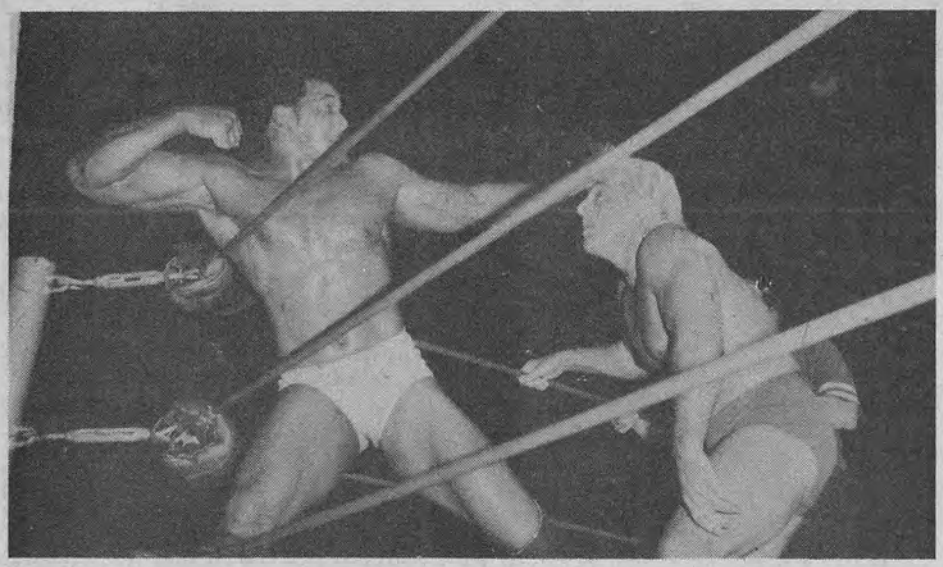
The N.W.A. kingpin was reaching for the safety of the ropes when Reed clamped a sleeper hold on him.



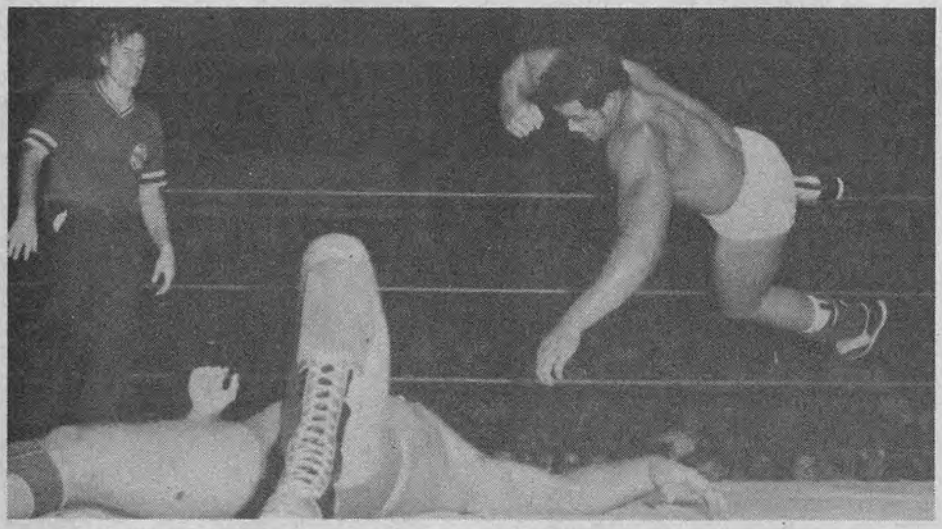
Ric also had "Hacksaw" in serious trouble with an abdominal stretch.



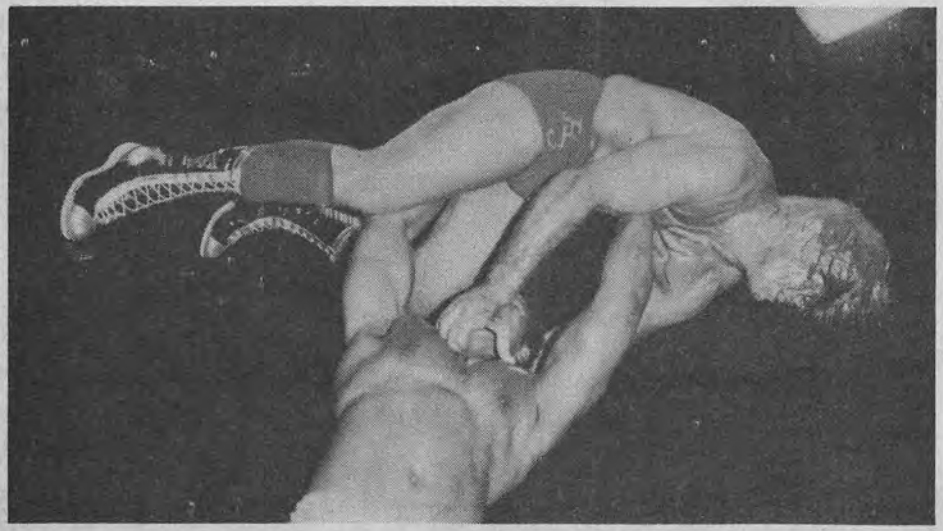
Things looked very bad for Reed when Flair clamped on his favorite submission hold, the figure four leglock.



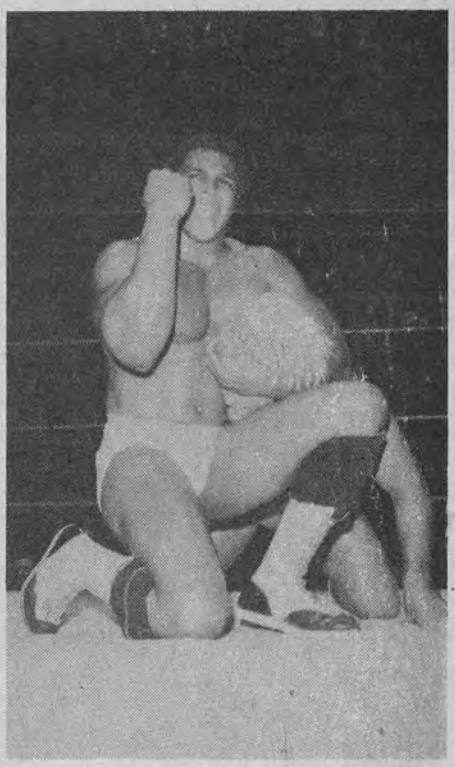
"Hacksaw" Reed measured the champion before planting a powerful right on his jaw.



Coming off the ropes Reed delivered yet another sock to the jaw of the now dazed champion.



With blood pouring out of a forehead wound, "Nature Boy" Ric Flair was sent crashing to the canvas by his challenger.



The crowd was asked if they wanted to see more of the same, naturally they responded "Yes" quite vocally.

It looked as if "Hacksaw" Reed had won the N.W.A. belt, but a referee's decision later reversed the verdict, and the title was given back to Flair.

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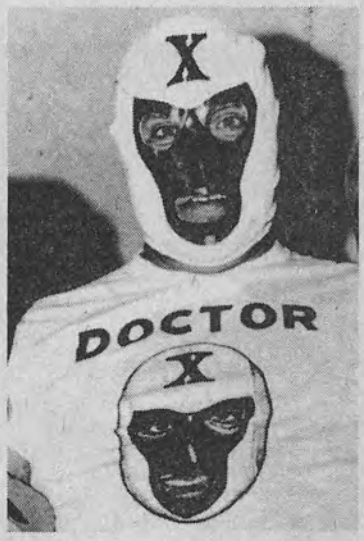

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The Crippler's Successful Career in the Ring

Photos By Bruce Krietzman

By Kathy Dowd

Throughout the history of professional wrestling there has been many wrestlers with the reputation of being considered dangerous. There's been Mad Dog Vachon, Dick The Bruiser, Freddie Blassie, The Mongolian Stomper, Abdullah The Butcher and Killer Khan.

There is another wrestler who most likely has the worst reputation of them all and he is Ray Stevens, better known as "THE CRIPPLER." This man has hurt and injured more men than many others even consider wrestling in a life time. There is no mercy shown for any opponent who steps into the ring with Ray, no matter who it may be. Every wrestler will be treated the same. Once that bell rings, Stevens is out for a victory and won't let anyone take it away.

Starting out at age 16, Ray's early career wasn't apple pie and ice cream. Without a reputation he often had to wonder where his next meal was going to be coming from. Though with Rays' determination he soon met up with another well known wrestler in the name of Roy Shires.

Shires had been around and he knew talent when he saw it. Ray was headed for a great career in the sport of wrestling according to Roy. He asked Stevens if he would like to team up and form a tag team. Stevens seeing a good chance to make it to the top agreed quickly.

They had moxy. They had talent. But best of all they had the backing of the wrestling promoters in the wrestling world. Quickly the tag team with Shires made Ray both well known and wealthy. Team after team went down in defeat at the hands of Stevens and Shire.

Roy Shires retired from wrestling, but soon began promoting at the well known San Francisco Cow Palace. Not only does the Cow Palace produce wrestling at its best, but also does a lot of work on their annual rodeo held in late November. Often after Ray began appearing in northern California for wrestling, fans could see him around the roping shoots watching the team roping and bulldogging events. Being there helped Ray with a few handy tips since Stevens does some rodeo in his spare time.

After Shires became promoter, one of the first things he did was to bring in the super wrestler to appear by the name of Ray Stevens. Roy knew with Ray headlining the wrestling matches that indeed there would be money, fame, and success for wrestling at the Cow Palace.

Shires was right. He was so right that when Ray wrestled there on a regular monthly appearance the gate attendance and income from the matches skyrocketed to the highest ever seen there. The fans rushed to the arena to see Stevens tangle with men like "Jolting" Joe Blanchard, Ed Carpentier, Red Bastien, Wilbur Snyder, Bobo Brazil, Cowboy Bob Ellis and Pepper Gomez. Every match that Ray wrestled in would have had to be considered a death match, as if his opponent got up at the end, it was surprising.

From California Ray ventured into other areas but stayed mainly in the western part of the U.S.A. After Texas, Ray was going to try his luck in the A.W.A. and quickly he began destroying everyone in sight. The one match though that brought Ray his fame as "THE CRIPPLER" was with Dr. X. Stevens totally hurt X so bad that they carried him off on a stretcher. It was later learned that Stevens famous Bombs Away move off the top rope was the cause, and the move thereafter was banned.

Ray had been scouting out wrestlers and took a liking to Nick Bockwinkel, another hated wrestler. Soon after they formed one of the most impressive, yet heartless tag teams in the A.W.A.'s history.

Quickly they became champions by defeating The Crusher and Red Bastien. Their reign lasted quite a long time and they destroyed every tag team in sight. Soon after it looked like they would be ruling the roost forever, Crusher and Billy Robinson came along and stopped them dead in their tracks. The fans hoped they could leave, but that didn't happen. Instead they went out and found the shrewdest manager of all time, Bobby Heenan, and imported him into the area to become their manager.

Fans warned Crusher and Billy that Heenan was up to no good. Bobby didn't deny this, but said that it was up to the ref to catch him doing anything. Soon after this the team became tougher, rougher, and more craftier than ever before. Within months Ray again had become one half of the tag team champions. This time though they weren't as lucky as in the past, and quickly passed the title along to Crusher and Dick The Bruiser.

Stevens left the area and wrestled in many different cities. At times when he wanted to he would wrestle clean, or if so desired Ray would beat his opponent with cheating tactics.

After several years absence from the A.W.A.,Ray called Bobby Heenan and told him that he was coming home to wrestle. Quickly Heenan lined up some super single matches for him and a couple of tag team matches with Nick. But trouble prevailed.

Bobby Heenan, at that time, was managing all three champions (Nick Bockwinkel, Bobby Duncum, and Black Jack Lanza) and could only show up with Ray if the champions were appearing on the same card. Ray understood because at

Former A.W.A. World's Tag Team Champions Ray Stevens and Pat Patterson combined to give Sheik Adnann El Kaissey the old heave-ho during a recent tag team match.

one time he was champion and knew the importance of his manager being there. The biggest disagreement though came on the A.W.A. T.V. program.

Heenan proceeded to tell Ray to shut up after he (Bobby) had gotten the manager of the year award for the third straight time. Stevens blasted the hated manager with several roundhouse rights. Suddenly all three champions were there pounding on Stevens, and they almost put him out of the sport for good.

No longer was Stevens a hated man but instead became the hero of the A.W.A. rings. He battled every Heenan family member to no return. No matter who he got he wanted them for revenge, and REVENGE IT WAS! But all good things must come to an end. Stevens was finished helping others get back at the Heenan family, and he claimed that he was going to start calling the shots. With one phone call and one airline ticket within a few weeks Pat Patterson had arrived on the scene and started to cause havoc with Stevens following in his footsteps.

Within a short length of time, the two wrestlers had become tag team champions due to the fact that after Jim Brunzell was injured in a charity softball game. The High Flyers were forced to give up the title on a forfeit since Jim couldn't wrestle. Stevens and Patterson got the title on a silver platter.

With almost a years title defenses under their belts, the Patterson/Stevens duo met with Billy Robinson and Verne Gagne in a championship match. The villain brutally beat Robinson to a pulp, and forced him to quit wrestling for a few months. Verne Gagne was so upset about this grave miscarriage of wrestling action that he called for one of the roughest, toughest, and meanest wrestlers alive today. He was none other than Mad Dog Vachon.

Mad Dog agreed to return to wrestling to team with former rival Verne Gagne to show Ray and Pat a thing or two. This was going to be the team everyone in wrestling wanted to see, and not once did either man attempt to turn on the other guy. Quickly Gagne and Vachon won the title from Ray and Pat, and Stevens headed out of the A.W.A.

In the Mid Atlantic area this time Stevens teamed up with Greg Valentine to raise trouble with the team of Jay Youngblood and Ricky Steamboat. The fighting got so intense that at one point during their fights, Ray and Greg proceeded to cut off a big chunk of Youngblood's hair, and then laughed about scalping the Indian. After a series of bloody and bruising matches against the youngsters, Stevens left the area and headed farther south.

It's now 1982 and again Stevens is back in the A.W.A., the heartland of professional wrestling, to tangle with the area's other ring ruffians. He has stressed on his T.V. interviews that "I'm going to tangle with that camel jockey Sheik Adnann Kaissey, and that if his brother Fatwell decides to join in, I will fight him too! They've been causing a lot of trouble you know, but then they haven't messed with 'The Crippler,' and they're going to find out just why I am called The Crippler!"

Ray's hobbies outside of wrestling are just as exciting and daring as is his professional career. He enjoys rodeoing and his favorite events include the bulldogging and team roping. Stevens also has the habit of racing quite a bit with cars and motorcycles.

Country and Western music rates very high in Ray's life. His favorites include country outlaw singers Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. He knows Willie Nelson personally and says that "we are real good friends."

"The Crippler" gave Jerry Blackwell, who he refers to as "Fatwell," a taste of his own medicine during that same wild tag team encounter.

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Farewell to a Friend

By Ken Jugan

Jimmie Banks appeared this way while wrestling under the name of Kasavubu.

I was deeply saddened when I received a phone call this morning, July 27th, to learn that a very close friend of mine had passed away. Once again, a death had hit the wrestling world. Kasavubu the Ugandan had died.

Kasavubu, who in reality was Jimmie Banks, had left the wrestling world! Kasavubu had his kidneys removed in an operation that he had put off for several years, fearing the possible risks he had to take. His final decision to go ahead with the operation proved to be a fatal one.

Kasavubu was trained by Johnny Powers in his wrestling school in Cleveland back in the middle seventies. One of his first matches was in February of '75 in the legendary Akron Armory of Ohio against Brady Howard, also one of Johnny Powers' discoveries.

After a brief spell throughout Ohio, Kasavubu ventured into West Virginia where he appeared as Sugar Bear Brown, accompanied by his first manager Zoltan the Great.

After the West Virginia stint, Kasavubu appeared briefly throughout the W.W.F. under the alias of JoJo Andrews. From there he began working with the I.W.A. and donned the name of Bruiser Banks. He teamed with the late Eric the Red and the two were billed as "The Gruesome Twosome" in the Carolinas. Kasavubu and Eric were managed by George Cannon. After having a falling out with Eric and Cannon, Kasavubu turned clean and began teaming with Pistol Pez Whatley. The two were known as "The Soul Patrol."

From there, Kasavubu traveled up to Montreal where he appeared as Tiger Jackson. After a few months, he returned to Ohio to appear as Apeman Andrews. He started up several feuds with The Currys, "Arriba" Luis Martinez, and Chief White Owl.

Kasavubu's full potential came to a peak when he got his first big break from Promoter Stu Hart in Calgary, Alberta. Under the managerial services of John Foley, Kasavubu captured the North American Heavyweight Championship. He also held the tag team title recognized in Calgary with numerous different partners. While in Calgary, he had several classic matches with such greats as Gene Kiniski, John Quinn, and "Killer" Tor Kamata.

After touring Japan, Kasavubu returned to Calgary for a brief spell. He later returned home to Akron where he appeared on numerous shows throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. His health caused his love for wrestling, touring, and the fans to come to a halt.

His final year in the ring saw him and B.B. Coleman capture the Ohio State Heavyweight Championship from the Convicts in Akron, Ohio. He also teamed with former manager, Zoltan the Great, to battle The Hogg Brothers in one of the wildest feuds ever in Ohio.

On a sad Wednesday night in February of '82, just seven short years after his career had begun, Kasavubu had his last match against Domenic DeNucci in Allentown, Pennsylvania, during the televised tapings for International Wrestling.

Kasavubu, at the young age of only 26, was different from other wrestlers in that he was also a fan of the sport and respected the fans. Kasavubu was definitely a true credit to the sport and will be greatly missed by all including me.

During a tag team match Kasavubu used a rope to weaken one of his foes, Ted Adams.

The British Wrestling Report

By Stuart H. Barker

With the European wrestling scene in full swing many of our top stars have gone to make their annual trip to rings of Germany and Austria. A few have gone to South Africa which now toasts the stars equal to the "silver screen." Both zones of wrestling seem to be on the booking list of any wrestler coming to Britain. So we see how small the wrestling world is made with the modern forms of today's travel. A far cry of when the "old timers" travelled the world by boat and train. We are left through summer seasons with those that choose to continue to make their name shine through the gloom of our present depression that is effecting the houses here.

PAT ROACH continues to be one of the top stars that the fans welcome on any card. Soon he must be given an official title bout for the belt of **WAYNE BRIDGES.** This giant of a man from Birmingham dominates the ring with a great physique that is so muscular and well proportioned to be god like. We always see Pat give a good account of himself in our rings and the fans delight in knowing that here is a man who will always give out only his best. Our T.V. screens see him starred in many of the network's films. He has also had parts in major films.

TOM TYRONE — a rising star is seen regularly on the wrestling cards of the T.V. screens. He is one of the most exciting young heavyweights discovered in the last few years.

Coming from Kent this very talented 15 stone wrestler is already hailed to be soon a potential belt holder in the mid-heavyweight division. He too had a spell on the Germany circuits. This under the banner of wrestler turned promoter ROLAND BOCK. Tom was previously a former boxer until fate came along when he was encouraged to forsake boxing for the wrestling mat. This came about when he married, for his father-in-law was no other than London star wrestler **SAILOR TUG HOLTON.** He gave early training and got Tom started. One ring villain who at times seems to bask in the background is **LUCKY GORDON.** Yet here is a man who always gives an exciting show. This wrestler from Ireland is a man the fans love to hate! Never one to keep his temper or to show good manners yet in peak condition and tidy ring attire. Indeed there are some cards when it appears he believes he is booked to fight everyone in the hall. Yet he brings the fighting spirit of the reputation of former wrestling stars of the Emerald Isle. Two of the names springing to mind that are known to older fans are Frank O'Donnell and Michael Donleavy. Not forgetting former names also that made their way to America in the years before and become great names. BILLY GORDON now makes his home in Birmingham where he has now been resident for a number of years. He also favours his own company and is rarely seen in the tag team matches. Likewise he favours the submission style of mat warfare.

With the exit from Britain of JIM HARRIS the self styled black world champion perhaps it will be only time before black star DAVE BOND will be back to make his claim that he will one day be Britain's first black heavyweight champion. This Jamaican who has made his home here is known as the "SOUL MAN." Making Deptford his home, he wrestles mainly in the southern area. He loves to train and keep himself in top condition. Dave is also a well educated young man. He will delight the fans and displease them all at the same time. For he will surprise his opponent with wrestling ability then give way to some seasoned villains of our mats.

British columnist Stuart H. Barker posed with the heavyweight championship belt, that is recognized throughout Great Britain.

Before making out in the paid ranks he held the British light heavyweight championship for a period in the club sphere. So no doubt his boast to have the paid professional belt around his waist at heavy is not to be passed as out of place.

The star that fills the halls is **MARTY JONES.** He is without doubt the most outstanding star for all around ability to please the fans for some years. This Lancashire wrestler clearly demonstrates who is "boss man" of the mat when doubters or claiments for his title arrive. When he is really roused he goes on a ring rampage of holds and canters the dazzle the eye. He will at times go to full heavyweight and pack on the pounds to go into the division, then go back to the lighter weight in heavy training to regain light heavy-weight limits. Even referees do not at times appreciate or can follow the desire of Marty to have the bout moving so fast. This leads to his frustration at having to slow down the pace that normal mortals fail to follow.

Marty is also another wrestler seldom seen in tag team action. But again this would take away the centre of his personal attraction that is so rightfully his. Marty Jones is surely one of the top wrestlers in the world today. What destiny awaits him must only be of the best in the mats role of honours.

Crusher Brannigan jumped off the ropes while deivering a wicked elbow drive.

CRUSHER BRANNIGAN continues to make a name for himself with his all out street fighting style of wrestling. One form of attack that has been adopted by him is the **MAL KIRK** atomic elbow drop. He delivers this mostly when his luckless opponent has already been laid out on the mat and helpless. At times Brannigan will climb his huge frame to the top rope only to fall onto the referee. He will then better his luckless opponent completely cold while the referee is still trying to recover.

KENDO NAGAZAKI through his manager GEORGE GILLETTE makes the announcement that he is looking for a protege to train for his tag team partner and to carry on solo in the years to come. The person must be aged 16 years to 23, and he will be trained to the same degree that lead Kendo to world acclaim. Kendo under the hood as always hated imposters using his name and challenges them to prove who is the real one on the mat. We wonder what will happen to those that use the name in America. In the Florida area it came to our notice there is such a man. So the fans across the Atlantic could well see again the original KENDO NAGAZAKI to prove there can only be the one.

Mark Rocco also made use of the ropes in dealing out punishment to his opponent Marty Jones.

Oddjob Harold Sakata Has Passed Away

By James C. Melby

Harold Sakata, one of professional wrestling's most colorful internationally known stars, passed away in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Thursday, July 29th, 1982. After a long struggle with cancer, Mr. Sakata died at the age of sixty-two.

Before entering the ranks of professional wrestling, Harold won a silver medal in weightlifting for the United States in the 1948 Olympics. He had gained his enormous strength from working in the plantation fields of Hawaii.

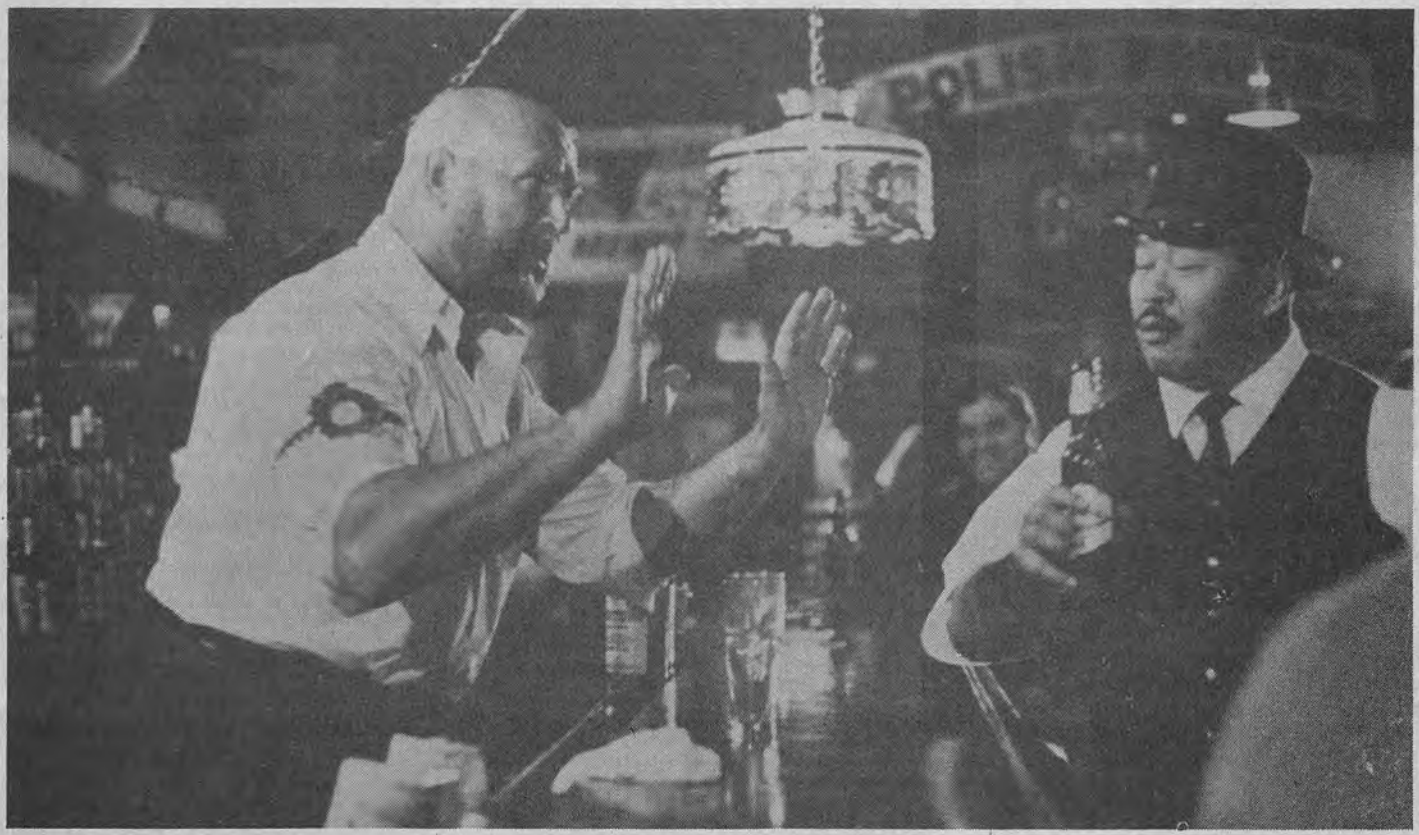
After turning to professional wrestling he adopted the ring name of Tosh Togo. Together with The Great Togo, he formed a tag team combination that was especially successful during the Fifties.

He later was discovered by movie producer Harry Saltzman while wrestling on T.V. in London, England, and signed to play the part of "Oddjob" in the James Bond movie "Goldfinger." He played a deadly bodyguard who decapitated people and statues with his steel-rimmed, razor sharp bowler hat.

Still later he repeated that same character in the Gagne-Frank produced movie "The Wrestler." One of the most memorable scenes from that movie was the barroom fight sequence he staged against wrestlers Dusty Rhodes and Dick Murdoch.

After retiring from the ring, he worked in the capacity of a host at an Oahu tourist shop, where he greeted visitors.

The Togo brothers (Harold Sakata is on the right) were not only one of the most successful tag teams active in the Fifties, they were the one the fans loved to hate.



In a scene from the movie "The Wrestler," Harold Sakata was warned by bartender Hard Boiled Haggerty that he didn't want any trouble in his place. Although the two parts were unrelated, Harold also played "Oddjob" in "Goldfinger."

THE WRESTLING NEWS®

SWAP 'N SELL

BY NORMAN H. KIETZER

The purpose of this section of The Wrestling News is to provide a market place for collectors of wrestling material. These advertisements are provided at no charge. Anyone who is interested in placing an advertisement should send us a self addressed stamped envelope and we will be happy to send you an application.

We reserve the right to reject any advertisement for any reason without explanation. We also reserve the right to condense, delete parts of, or change the wording of any advertisement as we see fit.

We want to stress very strongly that we do not endorse any of the products or publications or offers that are made by people who advertise here. Pro Wrestling Enterprises does not in any way guarantee any of the advertisements printed here. You may only respond to an advertisement at your own risk.

The Wrestling News does not knowingly accept fraudulent, misleading, or objectionable advertising. Liability for the content of all advertising and for any claims that may arise therefrom is the responsibility of the advertisers and not the publisher. Readers are urged to report objectionable experiences to the publisher and also to the postal authorities in charge of mail fraud. We will provide a copy of the individuals application and also any other information we are able to in the case of any complaint, and we will fully cooperate with postal officials in any investigation.

In short, we provide this free service at no charge to anyone, and we make no guarantees for any individuals listed here so if you choose to deal with someone you are doing so at your own risk.

You may wonder why we stress so strongly in each issue of The Wrestling News that you are dealing with people at your own risk. That is because there is no way we can guarantee the honesty and truthfulness of everyone who advertises here. Why then do we have this section in our magazine? Because we feel that this is a service many of our readers want. And we also feel that the vast majority of those who place advertisements here are completely honest. In the rare cases when there are complaints concerning an individual listed here, we will report on them. Remember that we make no judgements concerning the complaints and we also write directly to the individuals who the complaints are filed against and give them a chance to give their side of the matter.

FAN CLUBS

The fan clubs that are listed in The Wrestling Magazine Swap 'N Sell have agreed to provide us with copies of all bulletins and all material that they send to members who join their clubs. We attempt to make this section a consumer's report on the fan clubs concerning our great sport and to review for the benefit of our readers who are interested in joining clubs, the materials that the club provides — and also to keep reporting on how well the club is doing as far as giving the members what they promise to give them within the time frame that they promise.

I would like to stress that the opinions expressed in the various fan club bulletins are those of the presidents of those clubs and not necessarily those of The Wrestling News. We give free advertising to every club that conforms by our rules, not just to those who agree with us on things. This column is being written on August 30th, 1982, and reflects correspondence we have received during the month preceding that date.

The first fan clubs I am going to cover are those headed by Tom Burke, 31 Groveland Street, Springfield, Mass. 01108. I devoted quite a bit of space to Mr. Burke, our former fan club editor, several issues back. While I stand completely by what I said in this column then, I have since been able to resolve the complaints about his club as I reported here in this column the subsequent month, and my column did finally induce him to reply to my letters to him and to complete an application for listing. As you may recall, my major complaint was that he did not forward the fan club material he had received as our fan club editor when he suddenly resigned. From his letters, Tom states that he thought we were going to discontinue the fan club column when he resigned and so gave the material away to others. I don't understand as I specifically asked for the material to be forwarded and never ever have had any plans to discontinue this column nor did I ever say or write anything to Tom that I think can possibly have been misunderstood that way. Be that as it may, Tom has now admitted that he plans to start his own magazine which was one of the reasons for his resignation that he did not tell me at the time. As I said, Tom was a real asset to our magazine for a long time, and I wish him the best in the future. He has also completed an application for his present clubs so I will review them here.

Global Wrestling Fan Club. This is a newsletter that Tom Burke promises to send members each month. He charges $1.00 plus a stamped self addressed envelope for a single issue, $5.00 for a four issue subscription, or $15.00 for a one year (12 issue) subscription. I just received issue No. 82 which consisted of six 8½ by 11 pages and included clippings, results, and a column. This issue covered the month of July 1982. Although this bulletin is small in size it is very well done and packed with clearly typed out results.

All Girl Wrestling Fan Club. This is Mr. Burke's other club. We just received bulletin No. 11 which consisted of five 8½ by 11 sheets printed on both sides. Tom charges $3.00 plus a stamped self addressed envelope for a copy. The publication is, as its title indicates, devoted to female professional wrestling. He does not indicate any frequency of publication in his application or where I could find it in the bulletin but he does promise to have the next issue (his AGW bulletin No. 12) in the mail in September for those who order it.

Michael O'Hara, P.O. Box 651 — Gracie Station, New York, N.Y. 10028 sent us copies of issues No. 51, 52, and 54 — the latest along with a note of apology for not sending us the earlier two when they were published. We did mention that we hadn't received them in our last issue, but they are now here. Each issue consisted of three legal sized sheets of paper folded in half and printed on both sides to make 12 pages. The issues are packed with clippings and results. Mike charges $6 for the next six issues, or $12 for the next 12 issues. He promises a new issue each month. Mr. O'Hara also runs clubs for Hulk Hogan and for Bulldog Brower. The last issues we received for them were Hogan bulletin No. 6 and Brower bulletin No. 10, both on April 25th. These two clubs are four bulletins per year organizations and Mike promises to send us new issues when they are published at the end of August so they should be here for review next month in this column.

Daniel Billings, Route No. 1, Box 227, Millay Road, Bowdoinham, Maine, 04008 runs two fan clubs which we will cover next. We received two bulletins this month (No. 19 and No. 20) for his Wrestling Writes club. He promises 17 issues per year (one every three weeks) and charges 75¢ for a single issue, $3.50 for five issues, or $10.00 for fifteen issues. Each of the issues consisted of three legal size sheets of paper printed on both sides packed with news reports, features, and information. Mr. Billings also sent along bulletin No. 2 of his Independent Wrestling Action club that I first reported on last month. It consisted of five pages like those described for Wrestling Writes. He charges $1.00 for a single issue or $5.50 for the next six issues of this bulletin on the independent scene which he promises to publish every six weeks.

Gail Duncan, Rt. 1, Box 497-A, Mt. Airy, North Carolina 27030, sent along issue No. 3 of the bulletin for her Ricky Steamboat fan club. She charges $8.00 per year for dues to this club and promises in return to send an autographed photo of Ricky, a color photo of Ricky, and a new bulletin every three months for a total of four per year. She also offers single issues of the bulletin for $2.00 plus three 20¢ stamps each. Bulletin No. 3 contains eight 8½ by 11 sheets printed on both sides and includes an interview with Ricky as well as pictures and articles on him and on other stars.

Jay F. Steele, 113 Bonvue Street, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214, just sent us issue No. 2 of his Mat Results fan club bulletin. It consisted of 23 ditto printed 8½ by 11 sheets, some with printing on both sides. Filled with results reports — he charges $1.50 for a single issue, $4.25 for three issues, and $8.00 for eight issues.

Mark June, 1041 N.E. 28 Terrace, Pompano Beach, Florida 33062, sent us a new bulletin this month — Volume IV, Issue 5 — of this World Wide Wrestling Report fan club bulletin. It consisted of five legal sized sheets folded in half and printed on both sides to form a twenty page bulletin that contained reports from around the globe. He charges $1.50 for a single issue, $4.25 for three issues, or $8.00 for six issues.

Barbi Barker, 316 N. Negley Avenue, Apt. 6-D, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15206 sent me volume II — Issue VI of her Wrestling Wire bulletin. It consisted of 32 pages — size 8½ by 5½ — packed with results reports from all over. She charges $1.50 for a single issue, $4.25 for three issues, or $8.00 for six issues.

Steve Helwagen, 605 Edgewood Dr., Circleville, Ohio 43113, sent me a copy of issue No. 9 of his Eastern Wrestling fan club bulletin. He promises a monthly bulletin (although the last issue No. 8 was received here in June) and charges $1.00 plus a S.A.S.E. for each issue. This issue contained five 8½ by 11 sheets printed on both sides and pack full of features, news, and recent results.

Walter Kupiec, 146 North Day Street, Orange, New Jersey 07050, sent us the latest edition — Vol. II, Issue VIII — of his W.W.F. News And Views fan club bulletin. It consisted of thirteen 8½ by 11 sheets printed on both sides. The bulletin is pack with features, news reports, and results. He charges $1.25 for a single issue, $6.80 for six issues, and even though that last issue we received was the June one on June 5th, he may well be on time with his promise of a monthly bulletin as this one was dated August and skipped an issue number from the last one we received so apparently we missed getting one.

Jim Burgett, 707 Clift Road, Tupelo, Mississippi 38801 sent me issue No. 31 of his World/American Wrestling Results fan club bulletin along with a completed application. He had earlier sent me copies of two other issues but I could not review them until I had his application completed. He promises a new issue each month and charges 75¢ for a single copy or $7.00 for a one year (twelve issue) subscription. The issues I have on file here averaged eight sheets size 8½ by 11 printed on both sides. They contained results reports.

Rick Sullivan, Rt. 5, Box 76, Forest City, North Carolina 28043, sent me a copy of issue No. 10 of his Mid Atlantic Wrestling fan club bulletin. He charges $2.00 for a single

issue or $6.00 for a three issue subscription. I believe he publishes monthly, although I was not certain, and trust he will let me know exact schedule in the future. His bulletin No. 10 consisted of eight sheets — size 8½ by 11 — printed on one side only.

Roger Thomas, 38 Fostoria, Moundsville, West Virginia 26041, sent along issues No. 10 and 11 of his W.W.F. Updated fan club bulletin. He promises monthly issues and charges 65¢ plus a self addressed stamped envelope for a single issue or $5.00 for a one year (twelve issue) subscription. Issue No. 10 had thirteen 8½ by 11 sheets printed on one side and was hand written. Issue No. 11 had nine such pages and was typed.

That covers the fan clubs I have heard from this month except for Diane Williams (Soul Brothers Fan Club) who I have heard from but not yet received bulletins or a signed application from and who does have an unresolved complaint. Other clubs we have previously listed and will again review when their next issue arrives here include Vicky Barton's Roddy Piper club (July 26th), Bob Stoner's Pittsburgh Piledriver club (July 26th), Karen Beckman's AWA Results (July 26th), Donna Crawford's Ric Flair club (July 26th), J.M. Fiori's WWF Update club (June 2nd — he promises bi-monthly bulletins), and Leonard Helman's WWF Results club (May 5th). The dates are when we last heard from them. Only the last two are behind on their promised schedules, as the others do not promise bulletins as regularly.

We do have two complaints on people we have listed in other sections of Swap 'N Sell. They are on M. Haddon of England and Paul Sarro of Massachusetts. I have written to both and have not yet received replies with their side of the complaints, but am doing my duty and warning you readers as I always do whenever I have a complaint filed. I will report more on the matters when I know it.

CORRECTIONS

Lorrie Hutchison, Rt. 1, Box 38-A, Buttonwood Road, Bloomingburg, New York 12721 is interested in buying results and in trading drawings that she does in return for them. I had stated that she was interested in buying drawings which was incorrect.

Kim Lane, #9 Teal St., Longview, Washington 98632 is interested in buying photos, buttons, t-shirts, casettes, etc. from anywhere, especially the northwest — older photos. I had her address wrong in the issue in which her advertisement first appeared.

WANT ADS

Delton Perrodin, 416 Talbot Drive, Thibodaux, Louisiana 70301, says he would like to purchase photos and/or magazines or particular interest to the N.W.A. and Mid South promotions.

Ric Wyman, P.O. Box 131, Elderon, Wisconsin 54429, says he is interested in buying the record "Lilacs Today/That's Not The Way" by Rufus R[illegible]nes on his own label — Numbered NR4986.

FOR SALE

Now available — 1982 FRANK GOTCH Commemorative Coins. Bronze plated. $2.00 each (including postage and handling.) Books and pictures also available on request. Write: **FRANK GOTCH COINS, Humboldt County Historical Association, 108 3rd St. N., Humboldt, Iowa 50548.** (Birthplace of the undefeated World's Heavyweight Champion.)

Roland Messier, 2766 Wendell Street, Camarillo, California 93010, has a list of magazines that he is offering for a sale.

PHOTOS FOR SALE

Pete Lederberg, 3285 Foxcroft Road, #E-309, Miramar, Florida 33025, has photos of wrestling from that state for sale. Send him a S.A.S.E. for a complete list.

Bruce Viner, 420 W. Belmont #22-F, Chicago, Illinois 60657 will provide you with a list of the photos he has for sale in return for a self addressed envelope with two stamps.

Howard Baum, 333-09 Ives Dairy Road, North Miami Beach, Florida 33179, has photos for sale. He charges $1.50 plus a legal sized self addressed stamped envelope for his list and a sample photo.

Linda Churchill, 1210 S. 7th, Kelso, Washington 98626, has photos of northwest wrestlers plus Roddy Piper, Ric Flair, Andre, Jay Youngblood, and lady wrestlers for sale. Please send her a self-addressed, stamped envelope for complete list.

Terrance R. Machalek, 448 Jefferson Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2V ON2, requests that you send $1.00 for his giant list of over 3,000 photos that he is selling.

Dale Pierce, Box 23241, Phoenix, Arizona 85063, has wrestling photos of Western States Wrestling Alliance grapplers. Send him a self addressed stamped envelope for complete details.

Laura J. Zoffka, 93 Rexford Drive, Newport News, Virginia 23602, has photos of Mid Atlantic stars for sale. For complete details send a self addressed envelope with two 20¢ stamps on it to her.

Gene Gordon, 413 North Deal Avenue, Newton, North Carolina 28658, has three lists of wrestling photos he is selling: girls, men, and midgets. For each list send two 20¢ stamps.

Joe and Ron Cunliffe Sr., P.O. Box 265, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania 19050, request that people interested in obtaining copy of their list send a self addressed letter size envelope and $1.00.

Evan R. Treharne, Ringsport (R), 5 Stockland Street, Caerphilly, Mid-Glam CF81GD, Great Britain, has photosets of strong women and lady wrestlers for sale. Details can be found in the magazine he publishes — Ringsport — which is now in its 23rd year. We recently received the 201st issue — 16 pages on heavy glossy paper. If you are interested in becoming a subscriber to Ringsport the cost is $10.00 for an annual subscription. Evan accepts dollar bills only from U.S. subscribers to avoid heavy bank charges. The cost for British subscribers is L5.00

John Lawson, 618 South Center Street, Terre Haute, Indiana 47807, has both color and black & white photos for sale. For his list send him a self addressed stamped envelope.

FOR TRADE

Dennis Shea, 123 Spring Street, West Haven, Ct. 06516 says that he would like to trade wrestling clips, results, news, and programs from Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Texas, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Maine, California, Canada, Japan, and a lot of other places. He promises to answer all who write to him.

Richard Reigel, 912 Holladay Lane, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23455, would like to trade results of professional wrestling matches with others.

Mark Gallo, 2506 S. 59th Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60650, says he wishes to trade VHS video tapes with anyone in the U.S., Europe, Canada, and Japan. In return he says he can supply A.W.A., Georgia, New York, and M.S.G.

Mitsuru Uehira, P.O. Box 49, Nerima, Tokyo 176-91, Japan, would like to trade video tapes of wrestling in Japan for same of male and female wrestling bouts held in America. He can also send you a list of tapes he has for sell and prices (including postage) for them.

Marty Slobin, 3015 West 13 Mile, Apt. 206, Royal Oak, Michigan, 48073, tells us that he wishes to trade VHS color TV wrestling tapes. He is especially interested in Mid-South, (Louisiana), Houston, and St. Louis from 1979 to 1982. He is also looking for good matches from all shows.

PEN PALS

Tom Gavett, 146 Woodhaven Dr., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228 says that he wants pen pals who are interested in hearing about the matches in Pittsburgh and are willing to write him about the matches in other WWF cities in return.

Linda Brooks, 1100 Elm Street, Kelso, Washington 98626, says she would like to write to people that are fans of the Pacific Northwest wrestlers — also people all around the world that like wrestling as well as she does. She promises to answer all.

Midge Brown, 304 Second North Street, Syracuse, New York 13208, says that she would like pen pals who like Tommy Rich, Rick Martel, Bob Backlund, and Tony Garea — especially fans of Martel in the AWA area.

FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS ON THE MAT

✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻✻

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